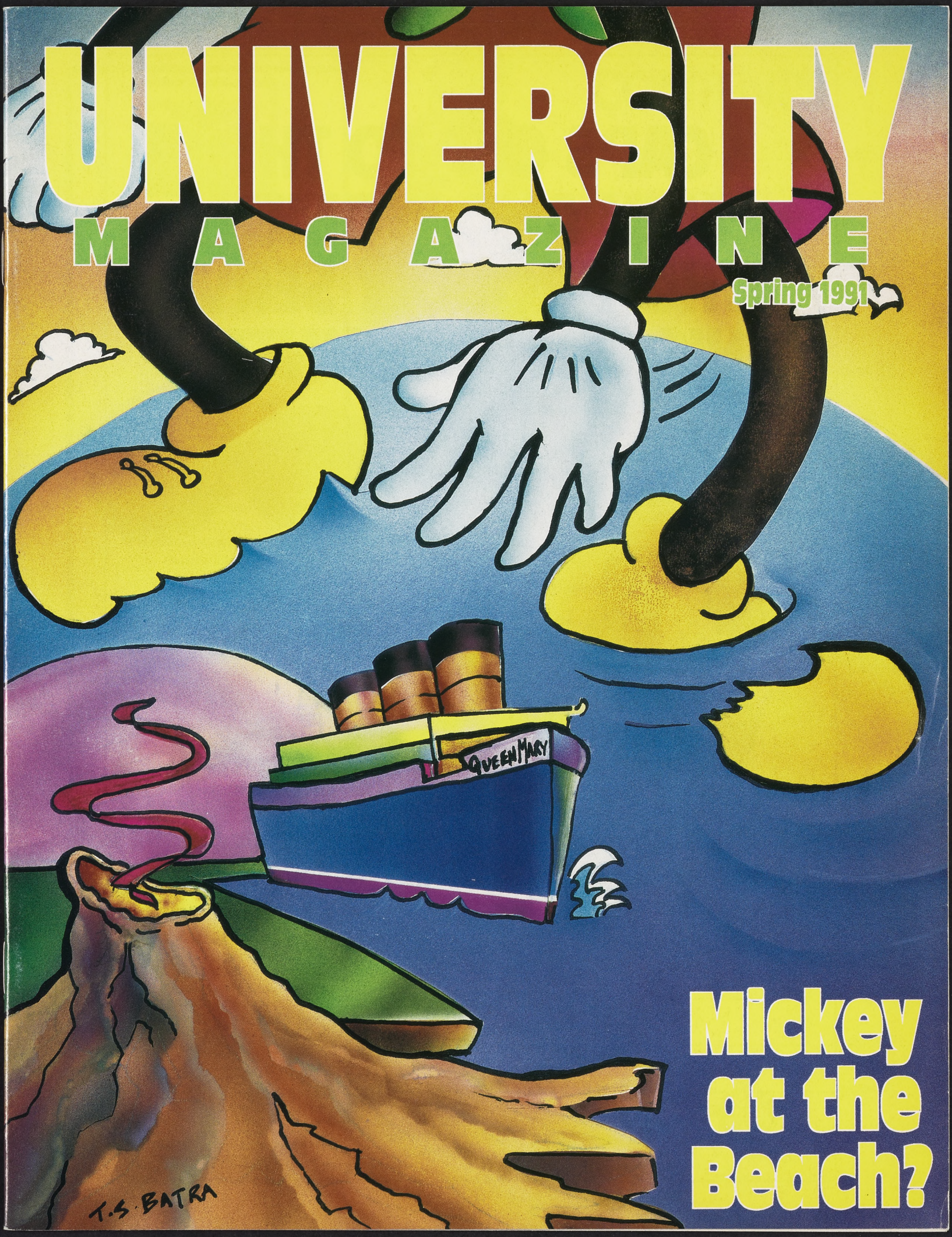
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SPRING 1991
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From The Editor

Progress exists because of humankind's innate need to control, whether it's our lives, environment, or destiny. I am convinced that we all exercise, to some degree, dominance—no matter how strong our personality. Human nature is not static, but strives to make things better, to do it differently, to change.

So hurrah for progress! It results in change and keeps life worth living. I thank my lucky stars every night that progress has meant we could produce this magazine on a Macintosh IIcx. I shudder to think what using the archaic, time-consuming methods of linotype would have been like.

But progress can also be hazardous to our health. Television has proven this. Time spent before the box has increased while the quality of commercial programming has waned. In this issue, "The Atrophy of the American Mind" accounts the phenomenon of "aliteracy"—sure to be the buzz word for the '90s. The long-term effects of aliteracy threaten the very future of capitalism, democracy and, yes, progress.

And it's no secret the abuse Mother Earth suffers in the name of progress. The greenhouse effect and acid rain are evil offspring of the Industrial Revolution, affecting the very existence of life on earth. Either reform or eliminate the sources. We know they ain't good, so get rid of them: advance progress, so to speak.

Granted, progress transformed an arid desert into the lush and thriving real estate known as Southern California. We altered it long ago with a little water and cultivation in hopes of making life more comfortable. But should we now start adding such geographic landmarks as volcanoes?

The Walt Disney Company thinks so. The cover story, "The Happiest Port on Earth?," reports on the Magic Kingdom's plans to move to Long Beach—plans which will significantly alter the city's coastline, if not its whole identity. The proposed 415-acre project will include a volcano and an extensive landfill, the latter opposed even by a government commission because of its detrimental effects to the marine ecosystem.

Despite the income the project will generate for the city and its residents, the costs to the environment and quality of life demands consideration. It's a case of humans playing masters of the universe; but remember, He-men are not known for using their noggins.

Transplanting Atlantic bottlenose dolphins to the dry, hot Nevada desert presents another incredible feat accomplished through advances; then again, the destination was Las Vegas, where even the most fantastic fantasy *is* reality...for a price. But can we morally justify this as progress, or is it just another form of exploitation? "Dolphins In the Desert—A Mirage?" investigates the controversy raging over keeping ocean mammals at a casino. Both sides have their say, but ironically, the arguments reveal the same conclusion regarding what is best for the dolphins.

We have got to question the implications and consequences progress brings. Rewriting the laws of nature takes a responsibility on everyone's part. Let's make changes—but for the better.

Enough lecturing. Enjoy the greatest issue of **University Magazine** yet!

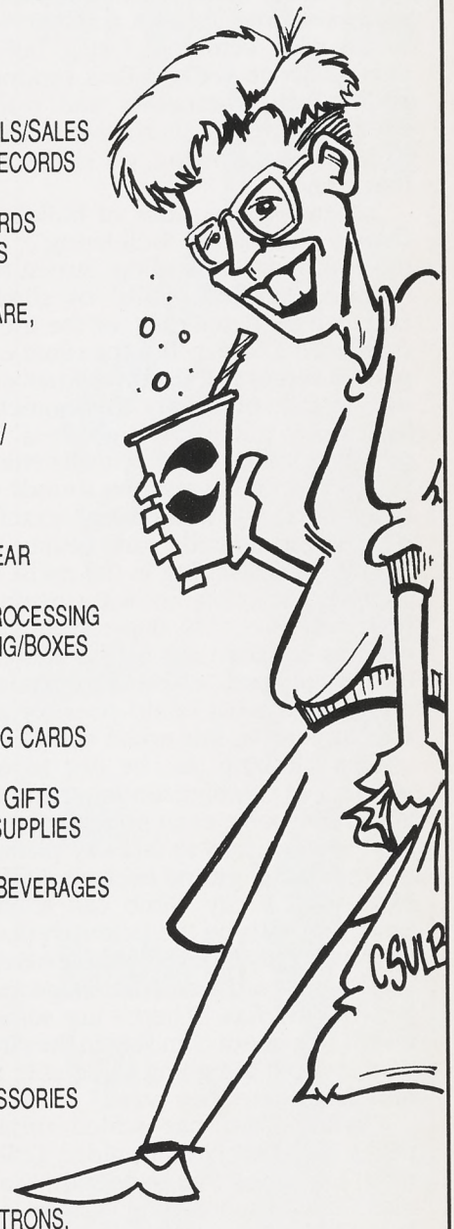
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U VIEW

Go Climb A Wall

by Janice Kahn

Although rock climbing, or "bouldering" as some like to call it, continues to attract many city dwellers who love the natural high of the outdoors, few enthusiasts actually have the time to get away. Out of desperation, these frustrated climbers have come up with a solution—urban rock climbing. Using buildings, concrete walls, pillars supporting freeway overpasses and walkway bridges, this alternative to rock climbing is a growing, yet still secretive, trend.

Ascending the sides of buildings (hence the name "buildering"), or traversing free-standing structures (dubbed "artificial walls" by climbers), can be dangerous for the inexperienced climber. But for some experts, it serves as a worthwhile substitute, in spite of the city environment.

Scaling mirrored high-rises or graffiti-splashed walls while listening to horns honking and the sounds of other urban wildlife doesn't exactly replace the solitude and beauty of nature. And climbing in the midst of all this commotion, knowing the only high will probably come from the exhaust coughed out by the endless trail of tailpipes below, the question arises as to what could possibly attract anyone to this urban sport.

City climbing can be just as rewarding as climbing among the flora and fauna; some even prefer it. Gone are the long treks to faraway places, but the challenge and excitement still exist—and a city climb can sometimes prove to be the better choice.

"It's a totally different atmosphere," said 22-year-old industrial design major, Nick Garfias. "There's just something I like about climbing in the city. Also, people are going to be able to do it anywhere they want."

Garfias, who has scaled urban peaks as far away as Boulder, Colorado, explained that buildering is almost like skateboarding. Skaters no longer need to restrict themselves to skate parks, just as climbers don't have to climb only mountains.

Oftentimes the grind of everyday life interferes with those crucial weekend getaways, so city climbing is the only option. "I don't prefer it, it's more of a replacement for the rock when I can't get to it," said Brad Gill, 27-year-old graphic design major.

Because rocks are rarely climbed at a 90-degree angle, and buildings are, the latter challenges the climber differently. Climbing a completely vertical, sometimes slippery, structure without the use of ropes and relying only on skill and upper-body strength creates both a physical and mental workout. "Climbs on buildings surprise you a lot of the time because they look easier than they

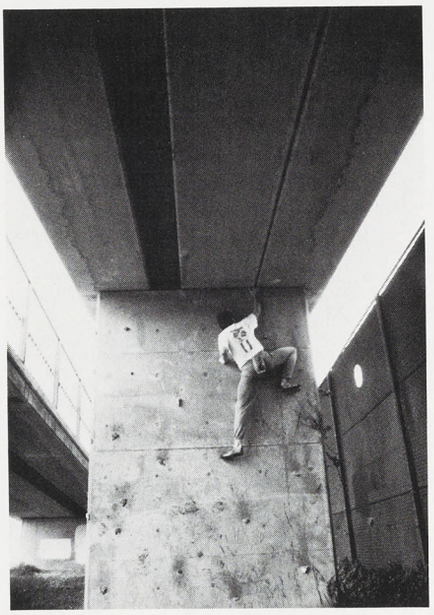


Photo by Tom Halligan

The desire to keep his skills sharp has this climber scaling city walls.

are," Gill said. "So it's a mental exercise, too."

Garfias and Gill are part of a small group of students who climb the walls on and near the California State University, Long Beach campus. The fine arts buildings, the library, the psychology building (nicknamed, "Freudian Towers"), the engineering buildings and even the sacred university bell tower have all been targeted.

According to Gill, buildering involves putting your feet against the side of a buildclimbs.ing then finding a crack or protrusion to hang on to. As in regular rock climbing, builderers lean back, pull with their hands and push with their feet to create opposing forces. Ropes are rarely used when buildering mainly because they are too conspicuous and increase the risk of getting caught.

Traversing artificial walls offers another challenge when urban rock climbing. On cement or concrete walls (brick crumbles too easily), climbers chisel out a concave cavity, then apply a strong epoxy to affix rocks used as hand and foot holds to the wall. The rocks are secured with tape for 24 to 48 hours to ensure safety. Considerable skill and concentration are required when moving along these walls, especially because the holds are usually small and spaced far apart.

Although sharing similar concepts with buildering, climbing artificial walls differs in that sites are specifically chosen and adapted by the climbers. The term "artificial wall" merely means that the holds were not originally part of the wall. For some, this is a good alternative and an easy way to maintain their rock-climbing skills.

Getting caught is one key reason why urban climbers on campus and elsewhere are being selective and secretive about sites.

Gill recalled being caught by maintenance workers. "They ask what you're doing and you make up an excuse like, 'I'm looking for something,' or you ignore them and walk away."

"There have been a lot of artificial walls around," Gill said, "but lately those have been coming under fire from the city because of liability questions."

Personal liability is the main reason this sport has remained underground. No laws specifically prohibit people from buildering or creating artificial walls, yet there are still laws for trespassing and destruction of property. The legal issues restricting climbers are so strict that securing access to climbing areas is virtually impossible. Although no known lawsuits have been brought against anyone giving access to climbers, no one—whether it is the city, the school, private property owners or a company that manufactures climbing equipment—wants to take responsibility for accidents. Despite all this, climbers continue reaching for new heights.

Another added attraction to acting like Spiderman is the cost: urban climbing is cheaper than regular rock climbing. All you really need is a bag of chalk—for those sweaty palms—and climbing shoes with stiff rubber soles, which can range from $50 to $140.

"I think a reason buildering might get more popular is because it's economical," Garfias said. "You're not

Computer illustrations by Tejpal S. Batra

going to have to spend a lot of money on equipment."

But will this underground trend continue to grow despite the danger and the law? Maybe that's part of the allure.

Those looking for climbing excitement within legal limits might want to first enroll in a rock climbing class. Sporting goods retail chains, such as Sport Chalet, REI and Adventure 16, offer information on classes or teach their own. Also, Sport Chalet and REI have in-store climbing walls for those who dare. After signing a release form, thrill-seekers can climb at no charge for as long as they want during the posted store hours.

Experienced climbers advise not scaling walls or buildings without the proper training. Enthusiasts have been urban climbing for years and would like to keep the sport free from the stigma of accidental injuries or deaths.

If your need for excitement draws you toward the waiting arms of city architecture, it is important to realize that climbers alone are responsible for their actions.

"It's not something you should just go out and do because your friend dared you to," Gill said. "It looks easy, but people who do it well always make it look easy." ▲

Civil Rights vs. Civil Liberties

by Brian Chee

Do college students enjoy too much freedom? Apparently some members of the college community believe they do when it comes to free speech. And California State University, Long Beach has put into motion a statement it hopes will eliminate harassing and discriminatory "fighting words" on campus.

Written by Student Services Vice President June M. Cooper, the policy, titled "Statement on Discriminatory Harassment," brings CSULB into this nationwide debate involving more than 200 campuses.

"We have seen increasing incidents of fights and disagreements," Cooper said. "It's important for us to state publicly where the university stands. This is no different than our sexual harassment policy. In fact, that goes much further than this does."

According to a draft of the proposed statement, it "discourages the use of derogatory or disparaging language and other forms of expression that insult persons on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin."

Students and employees of the university could face disciplinary action if a complaint is filed. The policy also states that in addition to punishment, the university "may respond to acts by organizing workshops, seminars or other learning opportunities."

The draft defines harassment as "conduct intended to intimidate, harm or stigmatize an individual on the basis of race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, immigrant status, disability, and is addressed directly and personally to the individual, and creates a hostile environment."

"If somebody were to come up to me and say, 'you nigger bitch, you don't belong at this university,'" Cooper said, "that would be something we would act on."

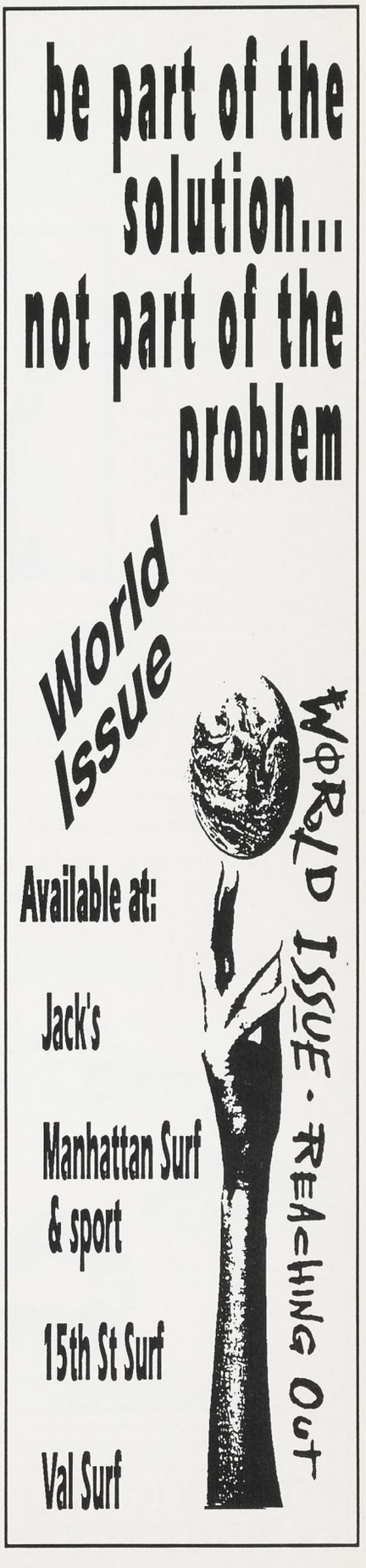
"All this statement does is state what is already university policy—that is, nose-to-nose confrontation with the intent to harm another person," she added.

While campus groups such as the Jewish organization, Hillel, support the policy, others on campus aren't so sure the statement, known as the "speech code," is such a good way to solve harassment problems.

"Ludicrous" is what journalism professor Ben Cunningham calls the proposed statement. Cunningham, who specializes in teaching law and ethics, said, "The university community is a place to encourage speech of all kinds. We should encourage an examination of ideas and issues."

Cunningham also acts as publisher for the *Daily Forty-Niner*, an on-campus student newspaper. Although he acknowledges editorial decision on the paper might be affected if the speech code passes, he is more concerned with how the policy will be enforced.

"I want to know what 'fighting words' implies," Cunningham said. "There is no definition. I would like to see a list of words that are banned. I think we have a right to know in advance what words are not allowed."



U VIEW

Another campus voice of caution comes from Tom White, a campus minister. "It is a very subtle issue. If somebody calls somebody else a nigger, that's one thing. But what if a professor makes an assertion in class that, for example, African Americans do not have their own culture because they were cut off or transplanted? You could inhibit a professor's right of free speech," he said.



White called for a careful analysis of cases as they arrive. "I don't have the answer," he said. "I don't know how a judgment call can be made on this."

White may not know the answer, but he is convinced that parts of the solution lie in our understanding of different cultures.

"We must sensitize people about race relations—we have got to learn to live together," he said. What he sees on campus is a student population of many diverse cultures, yet each one is separate.

"Racial groups tend to stay to themselves; there's not a lot of interaction on a personal level that I can see," he said. "Proximity does not mean dialogue. Racism is a reality in this society."

To Cooper, all the fuss seems to be much ado about nothing. "These policies already exist. All we are doing is making our position clear," she said. "The university is not a barroom. We are striving to keep the tranquility of the university, keep students who study here free from harassment." Cooper insists that the statement will affect only direct confrontations.

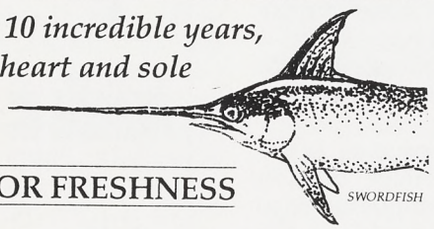
"This is the new liberal *cause celebre*," said UC Berkeley law professor Robert C. Post in a Los Angeles *Times* interview. "It has forced a wedge between those devoted to civil rights and civil liberties."

All those rights are turning up wrong on campuses such as University of Michigan, Dartmouth University and Lowell University in Massachusetts. Charges of discrimination against homosexuals, blacks and Jews have plagued all three campuses. At Lowell, student editors were forced off the paper and required to perform community service after publishing a cartoon that African American students found offensive.

At Brown University, a student was expelled under the speech code provision after shouting racist words on campus. The incident has led the American Civil Liberties Union to take a position against the campus code. In an interview with United Press International, ACLU President Nadine Strossen said, "The ACLU is extremely troubled by the upsurge of racist incidents and other forms of bias...on educational campuses around the country. But we believe very strongly that the speech codes are a misguided, ineffective, as well as an unprincipled and unconstitutional, way to deal with the real problems of racism, sexism and other forms of bias."

"We are opening the door for our own speech to be restrained," Cunningham said of the code. "If passed, I can tell you it will be chal-

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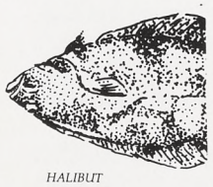
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lenged on grounds of constitutionality. I am confident that the state and federal courts will strike it down." ▲

Compact Solution to the Longbox

by Dawn Gunsch

With "Save the Earth" emerging as the slogan for the '90s, more and more consumers are taking a stand against environmentally unsound practices. Previously wasteful companies are cleaning up their acts, fearing public exposure of their bad habits. Even the music industry is discovering what it's like to be in an environmental controversy. At issue is its marketing practices of using the compact disc longbox.

This six-by-12-inch, plastic-coated, non-biodegradable cardboard box, which consumers usually discard, generates an estimated 20 million pounds of trash annually.

Many well-known recording artists are opposed to this type of packaging, considering it wasteful. Peter Gabriel, U2, ZZ Top and Sting have all opted not to use the longbox for their latest releases.

But many retailers and packaging companies defend the longbox, creating a controversy that is now entering its second year. They have said the longbox is a necessary merchandising element, because its size encourages sales as it protrudes from the top of display shelves. They argue the longbox attracts impulse buyers, providing the visual teasers that the now-defunct 12-by-12-inch LP once did.



As well as contributing to sales, retailers also claim the longboxes help deter theft, because the six-by-six-inch jewel cases without the carton are much easier to conceal than the larger, rectangular boxes.

Retailers' primary protest, however, is the money and time required to refixture their outlets if the longbox is eliminated. After recently converting LP racks to accommodate the longboxes, they are not eager to remodel again.

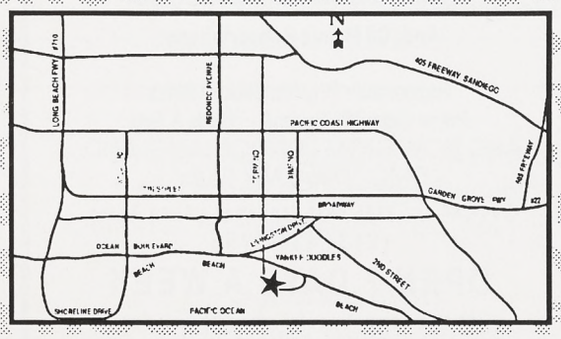
Louis Fogelman, president of Show Industries, the parent company of the Music Plus chain and Capital City Distributors, worries that the impact on the environment may be far worse from the mass discard of old fixtures than from the longboxes.

"Everything we can do to help the environment is important," Fogelman said. "But the fact is we don't sell enough CDs to make this an environmental issue. It is a small part of the environmental problem."

He added that because the music industry is so high profile, the issue becomes symbolic, and economics generate the bulk of the opposition.

Economics do seem to be at the root of the problem. Environmentally

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correct packaging produced from recycled paperboard without plastic coating was introduced during 1990, but failed to quiet the battle. Many in the industry still found these longboxes unnecessary and wasteful.

According to Robert Simonds, Rykodisc chief financial officer and founder of the Ban the Box Coalition, paying 20 to 50 cents per unit for a disposable package is frustrating and impractical.

Simonds advocates merchandising CDs in only the plastic jewel case. His company offers a price-incentive policy for distributors who order CDs without the longbox. Distributors who participate get a credit of 20 cents per disc. Retailers could then use the money saved to convert their shelving.

Others who want to eliminate the longbox do not see the naked jewel case as the answer. They are keeping their eyes on Canada which eliminated the use of the longbox in April 1990. Many Canadian retailers are experiencing difficulties because few invested in new fixtures. Also, the white frames that temporarily encase the CDs are not attractive next to the longboxes already in stock.

U.S. retailers fear similar problems. They will be forced to buy plastic cases at 50 to 60 cents each, which partially cover the product. Fogelman also pointed out the extra labor involved in securing the compact discs in the keeper boxes and removing them upon purchase. But some retailers are already using these temporary cases.

The deciding voice on the issue has become the National Association of Recording Merchandisers (NARM), whose members include more than 600 record retailers, recording labels, distributors, packaging companies and rack-jobbers. In January 1991, they decided not to give up the disposable longbox for the retailers' sake, but instead want the size reduced to five-by-11 inches. Their official statement called for "environmentally friendly" packaging "made from recycled material when possible," and striving for a "minimum amount of discarded material and a maximum amount of retained material." They recommended suppliers investigate available prototypes and institute plans for packaging which meet the new recommended size by the end of this year.

New packaging is currently being tested. Approximately 10 Music Plus stores on the East Coast are experimenting with shrink-wrapped, open jewel cases, testing for their durability and shop wear. The packages display graphics on the top half and the CD on the bottom.

Other concepts being developed eliminate the plastic jewel case altogether. The first such packaging, the "Digipak," was used by Sting for his latest release, "Soul Cages." It is a five-by-11 1/2-inch package framed on both sides by clear plastic struts. After purchase, the Digipak folds down to near jewel-case size serving as a sleeve similar to the LP cover.

The Digipak generated activity among package designers. At the latest NARM meeting in March, a new packaging similar to the Digipak was introduced. And according to Fogelman, who attended as a member of NARM, it's even better than the Digipak because it does not have the disposable struts and is wrapped only in cellophane.

Fogelman said that four of the big six distributors are interested in this new packaging concept and are working toward a solution to satisfy all sides.

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Although a long process will be required to phase the new packages into stores, eventually the longbox, as well as the plastic jewel case, will disappear from shelves. Cleaning up its act, the music industry will emerge a shining example in an environmentally conscious decade. ▲

The Atrophy of the American Mind

by Russell G. Shubin

Lost in the fight to eliminate illiteracy and improve education lurks another enemy: aliteracy—having the ability to both read and write, but doing neither. Gazing at the television has become habitual, even addictive. A 1991 Gallup poll reports that 52 percent of Americans choose watching TV over reading books as a preferable pastime, while 34 percent choose reading.

Educators have found they are making progress in erasing illiteracy, but students still lack the desire to read. Anything from video music to video games fills spare time, yet too many Americans are hesitant to pick up a book. Twice as many Americans did not finish a single book in 1990 as did in 1978, according to the Gallup poll.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University conducted a random study measuring the reading levels of sixth through 12th graders in 1986. It found the average student spends a mere 17 minutes a day on printed material other than homework. In comparison, a 1990 Nielsen Media Research study reported that the average television home watches six hours and 55 minutes daily.

Aliteracy is entirely different from illiteracy. Aliteracy is a broader problem, based on apathy toward the written word. While the illiterate does not know how to read, the aliterate does not care to read. Either no longer recognizing the value of literacy or, more likely, simply having lost the motivation to read, aliterates find books restrictive, boring and burdensome. The movie versions of stories are more to their liking. Telephones are far more convenient than letters. Newspapers are found dry and time consuming, while television news is quicker and easier.

Townsend Hoopes, former president of the Association of American Publishers, said there is "a progressive erosion; each successive generation is getting worse." The twentysomething generation has taken hold of vague conversational English at the cost of the written word. The problem of aliteracy, Hoopes said, is "aggravated by television, which lacks the precision of writing."

Aliteracy is a benchmark on the decline of the English language. Its effects are evident in today's common speech patterns. Sentences are loaded with filler words, such as "like," "um" and, well, "you know." According to Hoopes, these words are simply desperate attempts to fill in gaps in the thought process and link together incoherent fragments floating in the void.

Aliterates are losing the ability to reason and make informed decisions based on facts. Literacy is a powerful intellectual tool for acquiring knowledge, interpreting events and developing sound reasoning. But television precludes reasoning, Hoopes said. This generation "is inordinately swayed

University Magazine salutes its award-winning writers

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Winner, Best Magazine Article, Nationally
"Go Wrest, Young Man"
Society of Professional Journalists, 1990

John B. Maddocks
Winner, Best Magazine Article, Region 11
"Wipeout: What Have We Done To Our Coast?"
Society of Professional Journalists, 1991

Jon LeSage
Second, Best Magazine Article, Region 11
"Hip Hustlers Take The Cue"
Society of Professional Journalists, 1991

Jon LeSage
Winner, Best Magazine News Article
"AIDS and the College Student"
California Intercollegiate Press Assn., 1991

John B. Maddocks
Second, Best Magazine News Article
"Wipeout: What Have We Done To Our Coast?"
California Intercollegiate Press Assn., 1991

Donal Kennedy
Third, Best Humor Article
"No Time For Hooligans"
California Intercollegiate Press Assn., 1991

Donal Kennedy
Third, Best Fiction Story
"The Morning After the Night Before"
California Intercollegiate Press Assn., 1991

by the last thing they hear."

Elementary school teachers are concerned about the future of a generation of students raised on television. Lorraine Tracey, curriculum coordinator for the San Mateo County Office of Education said television gives children quick fixes. "The stimulus is fast and the thinking is done for them," she said. When reading is no longer seen as important, it is avoided.

Television is not the single factor contributing to aliteracy, though it serves as a prime example of the many forms of passive entertainment surrounding us today. Movies, music videos, concerts, televised sporting events and video games all lack the active engagement and mental discipline reading requires.

Television has become the primary source for news and information. Brief and sensationalized news broadcasts have replaced the in-depth reporting and analyses magazines and newspapers more often provide.

David Harman, professor of education at Columbia University's Teachers' College and author of *Illiteracy: A National Dilemma*, links illiteracy with the indifference toward reading. He argues the future of the battle against illiteracy depends on convincing people, especially those in poor, predominately minority ghettos, that reading is important. Little progress can be made in the fight against illiteracy when those who do have the ability to read simply don't.

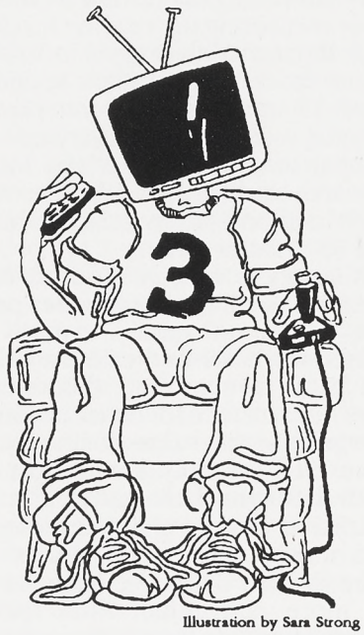


Illustration by Sara Strong

Gary Selnow, communications researcher and professor at Virginia Tech, is concerned about the future of a generation that does not consider literacy a necessary ingredient for success.

Studies at Stanford University show that progress is being made at the low end of the literacy scale—but students simply don't move on past the basics. Only limited progress can be made with students who do not see the value of literacy.

Hoopes said a basic principle for virtually any learned skill applies: if you don't use it, you lose it.

And that's exactly what is happening.

John Taylor, graduate dean and former director of the reading center at East Tennessee State University, traced the problem of aliteracy from sixth graders to college students. "At all levels," Taylor said, "scores on comprehension are not as high as they were 10 years ago."

Charles Jernigan, chair of the Department of Comparative Literature at California State University, Long Beach, has found that while students can read, they do not understand what they have read. He added that Ameri-

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can youth now view financial success as an end, taking the shortest route to get there at the cost of much literary training.

Pat Robinson, a kindergarten teacher at Ohlone School in Palo Alto, is currently working as a consultant for IBM developing a program for emergent readers. She believes that imagination skills have deteriorated to the point that, even when children are read to, they don't know what to do with the words. She added that when nothing is left to the imagination, the creative skills of imagery begin to atrophy.

Reading is an internalized process which requires readers to mentally paint a picture or grasp a concept from the printed material. These thoughts are then interpreted and organized. Ultimately, ideas are born, opinions are formulated, fantasies are created.

When reading is reduced to a function—the ability to simply recognize words on a page—the individual's creative impulse begins to deteriorate. According to Jernigan, literature is an art form for which an appreciation must be cultivated. We begin losing our appreciation, and with it goes our imagination.

What is the future for a generation that chooses not to read?

Hoopes fears a growing polarization between educated leadership groups and the general public. Breaking society into two groups, the "able elite" and the "passive mass," Hoopes finds that "the 'passive mass' is now much more susceptible to popular manipulation."

This "passive mass" is both vulnerable to the bombardment of ideas tossed their way via the mass media and subject to the growing influence of active, ambitious leadership. Studies on some of America's 25 million high school dropouts reveal that 80 percent believe the only way to learn about a subject is to listen to leaders and self-proclaimed experts who will explain it to them.

Considering the political implications alone, the potential effects of aliteracy are alarming. Democracy itself is founded on the principle of a well-informed and participating public. Only then is the public able to contribute in the marketplace of ideas. As the desire for knowledge for its own sake dies, the marketplace is left empty. ▲

Women Get Down to Business

by Cheryl L. Knight



The American dream lives on for hundreds of women through the Los Angeles-based Coalition For Women's Economic Development (CWED). This nonprofit community development corporation, founded in 1988, originated with the idea of pursuing child care as self-employment, but has since grown to help in all types of businesses. CWED assists low-income women in starting their own small business or expanding their current business by offering technical and financial assistance, as well as peer support.

According to Mari Riddle, program manager of CWED, "Women may not

continued on page 32

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The Happiest Port on Earth!

by Lauren M. Lashbrooke & Kelley R. Shifflett

Like many couples who have worked hard all their lives, they too wished for the perfect vacation home—something nice, by the ocean. And they decided on Long Beach as the perfect place. Of course, every new tenant wants to make some changes. Perhaps expand the yard by 200 acres or build a monorail. Maybe place some futuristic bubbles in the backyard, next to the volcano. Yep, Mickey and Minnie may be moving to Long Beach.

The Walt Disney Company unveiled tentative plans for the star couple's beach home July 31, 1990. The proposed project, Port Disney, would encompass 415 acres centered in the Port of Long Beach. It would span from a new landfill off the Queen Mary Hotel and Attraction's present site to both sides of Queensway Bay and extend through Shoreline Village. The development—themed to the world's seas, legends, crafts and ports—would include an amusement park, five resort hotels, a cruise ship port and a marina.

The proposed focal point of Port Disney, DisneySea, would be located on a new 256-acre landfill just off Pier J. DisneySea's attractions would range from ocean mythology to the cutting edge of oceanographic research. Oceana, a series of futuristic bubbles containing the story of marine evolution, would act as the park's nucleus. Plans for Oceana feature a two-story aquarium and the Future Research Center where, according to Disney's Preliminary Master Plan, "...scientists from the world's leading institutions would come together to conduct oceanographic studies."

On Mysterious Island guests would follow clues to buried treasure, discover the Lost City of Atlantis and "careen suspended through dangerous caverns" on Nemo's Lava Cruiser. Heroes' Harbor would focus on legends of the ocean and famous adventurers like Sinbad and Ulysses.

DisneySea plans also include a Grecian village, an Asian water market and the Fleets of Fantasy—comprised of everything from Egyptian galleys to Chinese junks. To recapture a taste of Long Beach's historic golden age, Disney proposes an old-fashioned boardwalk at the project's edge. Tourists could surf, snorkel or swim with tropical fish in a Caribbean lagoon. The more daring could descend into a shark tank—in the safety of a steel cage, of course.

To accommodate the estimated 13 million annual tourists, Disney proposes five hotels. The Marina Hotel, next to the Convention Center on Shoreline Drive, would be a first-class hotel with 700 rooms. The Shoreline Hotel and Retail/Entertainment Center, located around a boardwalk on the north edge of Shoreline Lagoon (parallel to Queensway Bridge), would have 400 suites.

Plans for the Tidelands Hotel, also a first-class resort, include approximately 900 rooms. Complete with a six-acre public park and pond, the Tidelands would be situated between Seaside Way and Shoreline Drive and bordered on the east by Pine Avenue. Disney plans to move the Queen Mary 700 feet up the Los Angeles River. Commanding 500 luxury rooms and a waterfront view, the new Port Hotel would fill the vacated spot. Adjacent to the Queen Mary in its new home, the Canal Hotel would be the largest of the five, with 1,400

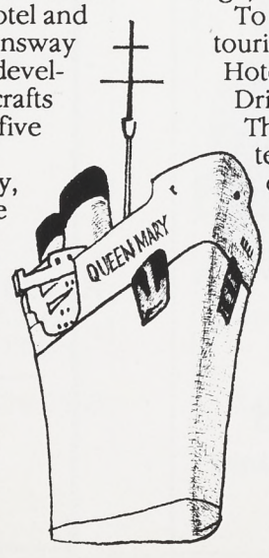


Illustration by Kimberly Kaya

deluxe rooms.

WorldPort, located between the Port Hotel and DisneySea, would feature historic sea vessels, attraction boats, retail shopping centers and restaurants. It would also have a dock for cross-channel and excursion ferries.

Shoreline Lagoon would serve as a ferry landing and also house paddle boats and other forms of non-motor watercraft. Shoreline Aquatic Park, complete with lawns, walkways and fishing spots, would be located just to the west of the existing Shoreline Village.

At the far southern edge of the development, Disney plans a new public marina with 250 long-term boat slips. Just to the inside of it would sit a five-berth cruise ship port operated by the Port of Long Beach, another landscaped park, an ocean promenade and fishing piers.

Disney is considering water connections between Alamitos Bay Marina and Port Disney, as well as ferry stops at Marina del Rey and Newport Beach. An interconnecting monorail system for the entire project is also being studied, with stops at the Marina Hotel, Shoreline Retail/Entertainment Center, the Canal Hotel and the WorldPort and DisneySea entrances.

The plan details no use for the Spruce Goose. The huge plane built by Howard Hughes was saved from destruction in 1981. The federal government turned it over to the nonprofit Aero Club Corporation, which now leases the plane to Disney. Neither Aero Club nor Disney know what will happen to the Spruce Goose if Port Disney is built. There have been rumors of showcasing the plane in Las Vegas as the focal point of an aviation-related convention center.

Disney defines the entire project as a "destination resort." Such a resort is more than a one-day theme park; it is a multiple industry offering a variety of activities. City Manager Jim Hankla and five other city officials toured Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida in late January to view a working example of a destination resort.

Malmuth pointed out the added advantages that a destination resort would give to the outlying community. In 1988 Walt Disney World provided $250,000 for direct educational reimbursements and programs for its employees. Disney established the Partners in Education program as well as grants for the Hospitality Management Program, designed to prepare employees for a successful career in the entertainment industry. Disney anticipates Long Beach receiving the same benefits with the Port Disney development which Orlando currently enjoys.

If built, the new development will generate $1.7 billion in economic activity for Long Beach alone. According to studies by the Los Angeles real estate consulting firm Kotin, Regan & Mouchly Inc., Port Disney would produce nearly $47 million in new local revenues. Four million of the much-needed tax dollars would go toward Long Beach schools and $600,000 toward local community colleges. In all, the development could give the entire Southland a $3-billion boost.

Despite the needed tax dollars, Long Beach residents aren't so sure they want Mickey and Minnie as neighbors. "They're not coming here to benefit Long Beach; they're coming here to benefit Disney," said Karen Pilcher, acting president of the Rose Park Neighborhood Group, which represents an area about two miles northeast of the project site. While Pilcher might think Port Disney creates problems and not solutions, Scott Ringwelski, is eager to have the project in his hometown. Ringwelski is president of the Willmore City Heritage Association, a downtown-based preservation group that focuses on restoring vintage homes and maintaining quality of life in the city.

"I seriously think that Disney will make Long Beach a better place to live and visit," Ringwelski said. Of Willmore's 300 members, about 275 live in the neighborhood eight blocks north of the Civic Center. As for the objecting residential groups, he said, "Port Disney is *not* in their backyard."

Disney will pay the $2.8 billion to build the development itself, but the project will also require almost $500 million in public improvements, such as utilities, roadways and landfill costs. Disney and Long Beach are still negotiating over who will pick up the tab for these improvements. Pilcher said she is disturbed that the company is asking for money from the city, which is currently experiencing a financial crisis.

Utility usage and availability are major considerations for any project of this magnitude, especially in view of rising gas and electrical costs and the Southland drought. The plan's best estimate for peak water usage is 10,000 gallons per minute. David Malmuth, vice president of the Disney Development Company, said that Disney is concerned about water usage and has been discussing viable options with Southern California Edison for a desalinization plant. One possible location for the plant would be Terminal Island. But Malmuth did not know if the water produced at the plant would be available for public use.

Long Beach's sanitation system would also feel the impact of the project, which would produce about 7,200 gallons of sewage per minute. The current sanitation system is presently ill-equipped to handle this burden. Possible solutions range from a new trunk line along Ocean Boulevard to the main pumping plant at 16th Street to on-site sewage treatment at Port Disney.



Long Beach in the year 2010: Disney's Preliminary Master Plan includes five luxury hotels, a cruise ship port and a volcano. (Courtesy of the Walt Disney Co.)

Illustration by Kimberly Kaya

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Regardless of Disney's final decision on whether to build in Long Beach, the city plans to improve its roadways. The 710 Freeway will be widened to help alleviate traffic problems caused by the city's natural growth. Residential supporters, like Ringwelski, do not see traffic as a major problem. "Nobody in their right mind is going to clog the city streets of Long Beach trying to get there," he said.

But other communities fear that incoming tourist traffic will congest normally quiet neighborhood streets, increasing both noise and air pollution. Disney, however, maintains that the traffic's local impact would be minimal. According to the plan, most traffic will be during low demand hours—late morning and late night. The company foresees the existing Blue Line light rail system and the 710 Freeway as the main thoroughfares to Port Disney.

Malmuth pointed out that 75 percent of all guests visiting the Queen Mary/Spruce Goose attraction use the 710 Freeway. He added that most of the project's guests would not be familiar with the local roadways and would follow Disney's signs and tourist maps directing them to Port Disney via the 710 Freeway.

With Disney's proposed landfill, the harbor could be in for a more drastic change than local neighborhoods. The California Coastal Commission has promised to reject any Port of Long Beach application on behalf of Disney, citing that a landfill for commercial purposes violates the California Coastal Act.

Both the Port and Disney are aware of the Commission's position. Disney, however, has continued to proceed with its plans. "We disagree with the Coastal Commission's interpretation of the California Coastal Act," Malmuth said. Senate Republican Leader Ken Maddy of Fresno is sponsoring a bill giving Disney permission to develop in Long Beach. The Maddy Bill, introduced March 8, 1991, would supersede the California Coastal Act if passsed.

The land to be filled is within the harbor's breakwater, which both the California Coastal Commission and the Fish and Game Department recognize as a unique marine ecosystem. The man-made harbor serves as a spawning ground for various species of fish. The Commission has suggested that the size of the project be reduced, eliminating any fill of state tidelands. Larry Simón, ports coordinator of the California Coastal Commission, questions whether the landfill is needed, in view of the great loss to the ecosystem.

Both the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are already planning to expand by 2,400 acres of landfill. "This, plus the Port Disney landfill, will have a tremendous cumulative impact [on the ecosystem]," Simón said. The Commission refuses to consider the three landfill applications separately. "If the landfill is unavoidable, then either the Port or Disney needs to mitigate and compensate for the loss with similar resources," he added.

"When you create 200-something acres of landfill, you have to offset that negative environmental impact, not through [monetary] payment but through creating a like amount of habitat," Malmuth said. He added that possible projects under Disney's consideration are the restoration of the Los Cerritos wetlands or a clean-up of the Los Angeles River.

While the Commission is concerned with the effects the landfill will have on local marine life, Long Beach residents are concerned with the effects a moderate earthquake would have on the landfill itself. Sitting on some of the most unstable earth in Southern California, Long Beach is familiar with the severe consequences of liquefaction; the mass destruction by its 1933 quake

attested to what a 6.3 shaker could do in the port city. Liquefaction occurs when the earth's sudden movement converts the ground to a quicksand consistency.

A landfill is even more susceptible to liquefaction due to the loose silt used in its construction. Malmuth, however, affirms that there is little threat to the Port Disney fill. Disney's solution to the problem is clean sandy fill and a $50-million process called fiber compaction. According to Malmuth, the fiber compaction would ensure virtually no liquefaction for the Port Disney site, even in a 6.7 earthquake. The project's success, he said, hinges on whether people feel safe while at the attraction.

The Commission also challenges the lack of moderately priced accommodations. According to Malmuth, "We don't have, within the boundaries of our acreage, room to do lower cost accommodations." He added that the city would have the opportunity to provide youth hostels and campsites.

Disney is in the process of building 500 units of timeshare condominiums at Walt Disney World; the company wants the same for Southern California. These condominiums would guarantee visitors a place to stay at least one week per year.

Disney has no idea what the admission price will be, but local citizens would like to see it fit within their budgets. Disney pointed out that the only part of the project requiring admission would be DisneySea, with the rest of the resort open for public access. The company currently offers special entrance fees for the Queen Mary attraction to Long Beach residents, but has not decided if it will extend the same discount rate to local visitors of DisneySea.

Even though the development is still under negotiation, it has already cost Long Beach money. The city is investing in the 55-member Port Disney Citizen Advisory Committee. The committee will meet for 18 months, study the various impacts of the development, and cost the city $132,682—most of which will go to staff salaries and benefits. The Port of Long Beach, according to Malmuth, will in all likelihood be financially responsible for the construction of the landfill and would then lease the 256 acres to Disney.

Although Disney-released economic reports do not address any of the city's potential costs, they do list the number of jobs that would be created. During construction, about 59,000 contracting jobs, lasting at least one year, would be available. Upon completion, some 37,000 new jobs would be available to Southland residents. Two-thirds of these jobs would be in Long Beach. Disney will directly employ 12,400; the rest would consist of indirect employment produced by the resort.

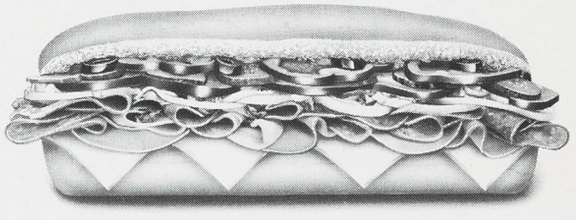
But Pilcher is quick to point out there is no guarantee these positions will go to Long Beach residents. However, 80 percent of Disneyland employees live in Anaheim or the surrounding area and Disney has said that hiring Long Beach citizens would be its first priority.

Disney might have the ability to help Long Beach economically, but some residents are worried about the physical changes the project will bring. Unnatural landmarks—such as volcanoes and huge bubbles—could push the city's historic identity into the shadows. Shoreline Village, the Queen Mary and Ocean Boulevard could become entirely molded in the Disney image. "I think Long Beach will become a non-city," said Pilcher, alluding to Anaheim, site of Disneyland, an area populated by strip motels and Disney merchandisers, its days of sleepy orange groves long gone.

continued on page 35

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The Paintball Rush

Unconventional Sport Explodes in the Southland

Written by Neil V. Young

Photos by Bryan Cole

Mike Beddoes hurries over the wooded terrain and takes cover behind a large tree stump. The fighting must be near; guns are going off everywhere. Looking around, Mike spots several figures moving in the brush ahead of him. He readies his weapon and studies the foliage, waiting for the first sign of unfriendlies. Fifteen minutes into combat, Mike's body drips with sweat as his heart races with anticipation. Suddenly, a camouflaged figure leaps out of nowhere and jumps right over Mike without noticing him. Mike whirls his gun around and SPLAT! For that unfortunate aggressor, it's all over.

Dead? Not really. This scene did not occur in Vietnam, Panama or even Iraq. It happened in the remote dairy section of Chino, California. That hapless target of Beddoes' weapon merely has to place his hands on his head, shout "dead man" and walk off the playing field, with a yellow blotch of paint dripping down his back where he was hit. It's all part of Paintball, one of the nation's fastest growing and most controversial sports.

Paintball has its obscure origin in the national parks and cattle ranches of Vermont, where park rangers and ranchers would "play soldier" in their off time using pneumatic guns originally designed for marking sick trees or cattle. The idea was improved and received media attention in 1981 when outdoorsmen Bob Gunsey and Charles Gaines tried to answer the question of who was better at the art of survival—a country boy or a city boy. "The Survival Game" didn't necessarily answer the question, but it did mark the first organized event to use air-powered paint guns to mark "kills" and helped boost sales of a book by the same name.



A direct hit on a flag-bearing opponent could make or break the game.

By 1984, that clumsy, single-shot tree marker saw considerable improvement, with the introduction of a multi-shot paintball feeder and a more reliable pneumatic system. The year also marked widespread adoption of the paintball. Filled with a water-based, biodegradable paint, modern paintballs are far cleaner than the older gelatin capsules which contained an oil-based paint, and proved very messy and hard to wash out of clothing and hair. Eventually the term "paintball" became the name of the sport.

A decade later, Paintball is a $100-million-a-year international industry, with over 100 playing fields in the United States alone. Those same park rangers who used to play with the old marker pistols would stand in awe of the seemingly endless line of products now available at paintball pro shops. Pistols with capacities of 20 rounds or more, rifles available in semi-auto, pump action or even full-auto variants, many with folding stocks, silencers—the selection is endless. The list of accessories is equally extensive, with dozens of different-model facemasks, fatigues, combat netting, grenades, land mines and even violin carrying cases.

"There is no doubt the industry is

expanding," said Steven Mullins, owner of South Bay Paintball Supply in Gardena, one of the new shops specializing in the sport. According to Mullins, three years ago there were just one or two such stores in the Los Angeles area. Now there are eight, with at least three more opening in the next few months.

Mullins described business as slow when he first opened his store a year and a half ago, but now business is brisk, if a little unpredictable. "It's touch and go much of the time," he said. "But we do a pretty steady business for the weekends." Mullins credits this to the sport's increased popularity as a regular weekend activity.

The number of players has increased dramatically, particularly in the past three years. The International Paintball Players Association (IPPA), headquartered in Los Angeles, estimates that about 980,000 participated in the sport at least once in 1989. This is up 300,000 from the previous year and the 1990 figure is expected to be even higher.

According to Mullins, half of all players are at least 22 years old, many from the white-collar force. Mullins said his customers include doctors, plumbers, lawyers, construction contractors and especially aerospace employees. He estimates the median income of his adult customer at $36,000 a year, and added that many workplaces organize teams for competition.

The other half of the playing population consists of the under-18 crowd, though they are less likely to play at designated fields due to legal restrictions. Parental consent is required at most fields for insurance purposes, and paintball guns are classified along with BB and pellet guns under state law, meaning a player must be at least 18 years of age to purchase an air rifle.

Another group venturing onto the field is women. Kelley Cline has been active in the sport for over two years, and has noticed the steadily increasing female presence.

"A lot of women are simply there with their boyfriends," Cline said. "But I do see some coming back because *they* want to play." Paintball is still not recommended to men as a way to meet that special someone, with only one out of every 15 players being female.

Far from being a statistics monitor, the IPPA was formed to protect Paintball and its players from the legal actions which have been brought against the sport at the federal, state and local levels. Despite a growing participation, the public at large has been slow to recognize the sport. Jessica Sparks, an attorney for the IPPA, said that is where many of the misconceptions begin. Many people know little about the game except that it is played in camouflage attire and with "guns," which conjures up a negative, Rambo-style image.



Protective gear allows Paintball players an exciting and safe game.

"People are quick to condemn what they don't understand," Sparks said. "Every time a new field wants to open we get a crowd of neighbors opposing the action because they think a bunch of warmongers or survivalist types are going to move in." Sparks said that opposition is best overcome by explaining what the game is all about. Though this will ease fears for many and allow the field to begin operating, it does not always keep protestors away.

"Some legal actions can be held up for years," Sparks said. She referred to a New Jersey case in which a farmer opposed a Paintball field because he believed his livestock would be killed by stray shots from players' paintball guns. "It makes no difference to this individual that paintball guns don't have the power or the range to do his animals any harm," Sparks said of the hearings, at which she has repeatedly testified. "Paintball guns do not fire any kind of hot metal projectile or use any kind of explosive."

The most-publicized hearings concerned the 1988 California Toy Gun Ban, in which noted consumer advocate David Horowitz spearheaded a bill that sought to ban all toys resembling firearms—including BB guns and paintball guns. During the 90-minute hearing, the IPPA and its supporters managed to get the bill amended to exempt paintball guns. Sparks believes Horowitz was not specifically targeting paintball guns, but because the equipment was so new it was difficult to categorize.

So why do players work so hard defending this controversial game? For many, it provides both physical and social exercise. Richard Balla has been active in Paintball for two years and finds the adrenaline rush to be the sport's greatest reward.

"The first time I played I was hooked solid," Balla said. "This has got to be the best sport in the world." He added that it builds good character because team cooperation and sportsmanship are necessary for success. "You learn how to win and lose graciously. Poor sports and crybabies are not tolerated by the referees or anyone else," he said.

Gina Mendez discovered early on she had a talent for the sport, and enjoys the respect she gets on the field. "When guys talk about me at work or at a bar, I hear them saying, 'Yeah, she's cute,'" Mendez said as she reloaded her scope-equipped Tippman Model 68, "but here on the field they say, 'Yeah, she's good.'" Reflecting on her position on the team, she smiles confidently. "How often are you going to see men asking for a girl's help in combat? It happens here."

A Survivor's Guide

Paintball is fundamentally very simple. Most games center on a "capture-the-flag" or "take-the-hill" theme, in which players must eliminate the opposing team members by successfully shooting them with paintball guns. In most cases, captured flags successfully returned to a team's home base constitute victory, but there are many variations.

In all games, being struck by a paintball eliminates the player from play, though some fields consider minor hits "injuries." Being struck

usually means a large welt or bruise—a reminder Paintball is not a sport for the meek.

Steven Sowell, a referee and manager at Sat Cong Village in Chino, makes it a point to tell "newbees" the nature of the sport. "I will inform them right off that they will get bruises, they will be sore, and that they will receive a number of scrapes and cuts," Sowell said. "It is a very messy game. Nobody stays clean for long." A good way to reduce the number and severity of such minor injuries is to wear several layers of clothing, but this will in no way eliminate such discomforts.

Although the paintballs are limited to a speed of 300 feet per second, the pressure launching them is still enough to break a tooth or even dislodge an eye, so full facemasks must be worn at all times on the field. Usually these masks are available free of charge at the fields. Hand and ear protection is also recommended and available for a small fee.

While camouflage gear is a big part of the game's image, it is also one of the more costly options. Many players do buy such clothing to get in the spirit or as a team uniform, but others see nothing wrong with a faded pair of Levi's and a pair of well-worn athletic shoes.

As for paintball guns, there are many models available, but price is not necessarily a guarantee of quality. Cloud Craycroft had been playing for two years when he laid out $200 for what he thought was going to be a fine piece of equipment. "The range and accuracy weren't any better than that of a rental gun," said Craycroft, who also finds his expensive gun less than reliable.

Rental pistols do receive more than their share of criticism and they are definitely of the "no frills" variety, but can still prove highly effective once their limitations are fully understood. Most parks have one or more target ranges, and it is recommended that beginners spend time target shooting to understand the weapon and how it works.

Wind considerably affects the paintball's accuracy, so hitting a target at close range can be difficult even with a light breeze blowing. Players and referees recommend tilting the gun slightly upward when firing, giving an arc to the paintball and noticeably increasing its range. Because most pneumatic guns have an effective range of about 20 yards, this technique can prove very beneficial.

Paintball is a sport, and like any sport, it has its ups and downs, victories and defeats. For now, the going is tough as the paintball field strives for the same recognition the baseball diamond and basketball court have enjoyed for decades. Meanwhile, Paintball players are content to enjoy their sport and get the most out of it.

"Each game is a chance to prove yourself," said Bob Lundquist, longtime player and member of the champion "Bushwackers" Paintball team. "We love this sport and we want to see it publicized. It's not just for men or military types. It's a sport for everyone." ▲



The Southland has one of the largest selections of Paintball fields in the country, and more are cropping up as the sport grows. The following is a list of some of the better-known fields in Los Angeles and Orange Counties:

Close Encounters Field
Malibu, 101 Freeway, exit at Kanan Road, south six miles to Mulholland Drive, and one-half mile to the field.
Phone: (213) 656-9179
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekends. Weekdays by reservation.
Prices: Registration—$25 a day, $20 for students. Pistol rentals included in registration, rifles cost extra. Paintballs start at $8 for 100 and CO2 cartridges are 50 cents each. Constant air for larger tanks is available.

Field of Fire
Newhall, 5 Freeway, exit at Calgrove Boulevard, then left on The Old Road. Entrance is one mile from freeway exit.
Phone: (805) 297-7948
Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekends only.
Prices: Registration—$20 a day. Pistol rentals included in registration, rifles cost $10 extra. Paintballs start at $8 for 100.

Indoor City Paintball
Gardena, 15000 Avalon Blvd., Unit B
Phone: (213) 323-1021
Hours: 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. weekends (closed 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. for field clean up).
Prices: Registration—$20 a day. Group rates available. Rifle rentals included with registration.

Sat Cong Village
Chino, 71 Freeway, exit at Euclid Avenue, then right on Pine Avenue to Hellman Avenue.
Phone: (714) 620-6335.
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.
Prices: Registration—$25 full day, $20 half day. Pistol rentals—$3, rifles cost extra. Paintballs start at $1 for 10.

DOLPHINS IN

by Sherri Walker

Photos by Chris Vornholt

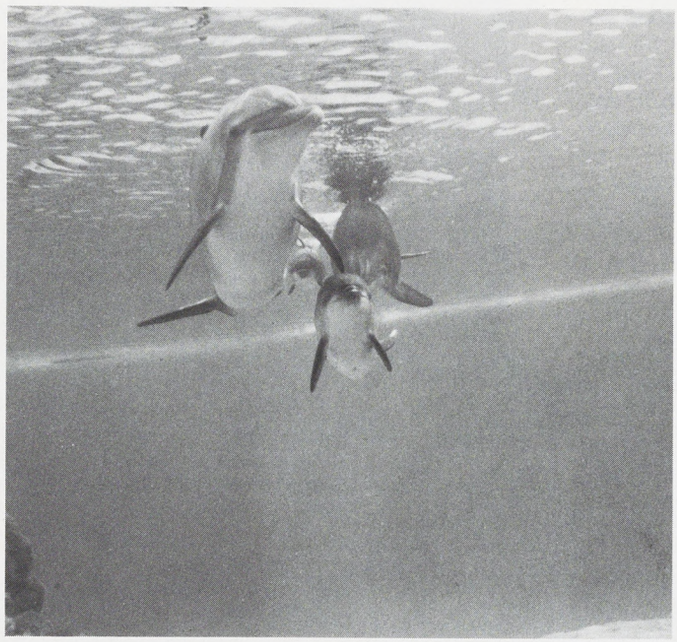
Darla, Duchess, Sigma, Merlin and Banjo are recent immigrants to Las Vegas. Unlike most who go to that city, they are not there to gamble or get married or watch topless showgirls. They have no interest in playing craps or seeing Wayne Newton. Darla and the rest are Atlantic bottlenose dolphins now living at the opulent Mirage hotel. What they are doing there depends on whom you ask.

The Clark County School System, the Governor of Nevada and hotel representatives say that the dolphins are there to teach Nevada residents and tourists the wonders of the ocean. Environmental groups, such as the Dolphin Project and the Animal Protection Institute, reply that they are there to entice thousands to spend their gambling dollars at the casino. It seems The Mirage bought itself more than just five dolphins, for with them rolled in a sea of controversy over what dolphins are doing in the desert.

According to Alan Feldman, a Mirage spokesman, the hotel imported dolphins to Las Vegas so it can teach visitors about marine mammals and the need to save them and their environment. Feldman said he hopes other dolphins, both captive and wild, will benefit from what The Mirage visitors learn.

Julie Onie, The Mirage's director of Marine Operations, has set up an educational program where local students can learn about dolphins and their environment. The program has classroom supplements for grade school through college, as well as a guide for visually impaired students. Onie said 250 students visit the pools each weekday. The Clark County education system supports The Mirage's dolphin project; they believe it teaches students about the ocean environment.

The logistics of bringing marine mammals to the desert have been difficult—even in Las Vegas, where almost anything seems possible with enough money. But complicating matters for The Mirage are environmentalists who question the ethics of keeping dolphins in captivity.



Darla and Duchess show off their new calves, born in captivity after a gestation period of eleven months.

"Marine mammals don't do well in tanks," said Scott Trimingham, president of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. He explained that an artificial environment prohibits their normal 50- to 100-mile-a-day swim and that their diet lacks the variety of their natural prey. In addition, dolphins live in a world of sound, and in an artificial pool their sonar bounces back to them, leaving them confused and less vocal.

The strain of living in captivity leads dolphins to suffer stress-related illnesses, prompting their captors to routinely give many of them Tagamet, an anti-ulcer medication, in their food. And, Trimingham concluded, their lives are much shorter when not spent in the open ocean. To Trimingham and other critics, captive dolphins exhibited at a casino epitomize exploitation.

Five years of planning and $14 million were invested in setting up the dolphin habitat at The Mirage, resulting in a state-of-the-art facility for captive dolphins. The facility houses a system that purifies its 1.5 million gallons of water every two hours and maintains the water temperature at a tropical 74 degrees. The three pools combined are large enough to satisfy government regulations for 20 dolphins, Feldman said. The largest pool spans 120 feet and is 23 feet deep.

But the facility itself is not what has animal rights groups up in arms; they worry about the adverse effects the dry desert environment could have on the five captive dolphins. "Our main concern with them being in the desert is not only the temperature, but also the dust in the air," Trimingham said. Because they evolved in a dust-free environment, dolphins' blowholes lack cilia, the tiny dust-filtering hairs in the nostrils.

Ric O'Barry, former trainer for the "Flipper" television series and now

THE DESERT— A MIRAGE?

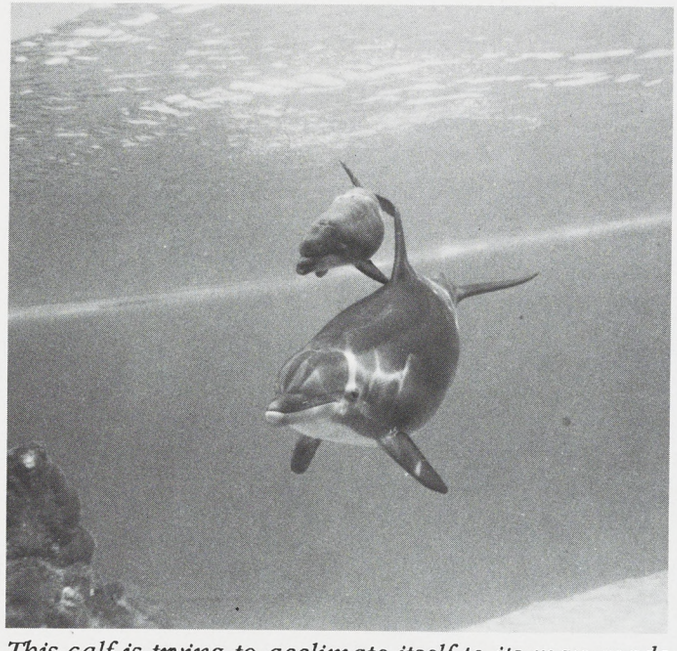
president of the Dolphin Project, said that some of the dolphins at The Mirage will die of respiratory problems due to the amount of dust in southern Nevada.

But Feldman called the dust problem moot, claiming The Mirage's surrounding buildings and the walls around the facility will keep dust out.

What also worries animal protection organizations, such as the Fund For Animals, is the precedent set by having dolphins at The Mirage. "The fact is a *casino* now has dolphins," said Jerye Mooney, the Fund's regional director. Referring to the highly competitive atmosphere in Las Vegas, The Mirage's critics worry that if one casino complex has dolphins, the rest will want a similar attraction.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the federal organization that decides the fate of captive marine mammals, has come under increasing fire from environmentalists who argue there are too many dolphins in captivity. Because of demands from more than 500 concerned individuals worried about dolphins in a casino complex, NMFS held a public hearing on The Mirage's application. At the hearing, held in August 1989, representatives from the Animal Protection Institute, the American Cetacean Society and the International Wildlife Coalition expressed their opposition to the project. The Mirage defended its case with 15 witnesses. NMFS eventually decided in favor of the hotel, and the permit was granted in September 1990.

"The educational benefits of dolphins in a casino is a mirage," O'Barry said. A vocal opponent of dolphin captivity since a "Flipper" dolphin died in his arms in 1970, he said problems linked with keeping captive dolphins outweigh any educational benefits. "Those kids will never see a snow leopard either. Does that mean we should go out and catch a snow leopard and bring it to the desert so they can see it?"



This calf is trying to acclimate itself to its man-made home—a viewing tank at The Mirage in Las Vegas.

O'Barry said all anyone will learn from dolphins at The Mirage is that it's acceptable to keep dolphins in concrete tanks to make money. He believes the large facility for the dolphins and the educational programs were simply to ensure the hotel actually got the permits. "He [Steve Wynn, owner of The Mirage] has so much money he can buy anything he wants—and he wants dolphins."

Sea Shepherd's Trimingham agrees. "I suspect he's telling people what they want to hear, and then he's going to do what he wants, and what he wants is to have dolphins in his casino to draw more customers. That's the bottom line."

Both sides in the controversy agree that many captive dolphins are housed in poor facilities. "What we are concerned about is the fact that half the dolphins in captivity are in substandard facilities...," Feldman said. He added that The Mirage brought dolphins from mismanaged facilities, where they were poorly treated, to an environment that "is as close to perfect as you can get if you're not out amongst them in Mother Nature's home."

Although no dolphins were captured for this project, Feldman absolutely refused to say where they came from, other than it was from poorly run or closed facilities. Ann Terbush, chief of permits for the U.S. Department of Protected Resources, said Sigma came from the now-defunct Sea ARama in Texas, while Darla, Duchess, Merlin and Banjo were kept by veterinarian Martin Dinnes at the Hawk's Cay facility in Florida.

Many critics are concerned because even though the hotel claims to have saved these dolphins from poorly run facilities, Dinnes is now the associate consulting veterinarian for The Mirage. Feldman originally denied that the hotel received the dolphins from Dinnes, but he later said "they were relocated to him [Dinnes] from substandard facilities." Merlin, Duchess

Dolphins at Sea

In July 1987, East Coast beachgoers watched 200 dying and disfigured bottlenose dolphins oozing fluids from their bodies and emitting cries for help. By January 1988, that number had risen to 740 deaths—half the bottlenose population on the mid-Atlantic coast. Are the bottlenose dolphins off the coast of Orange County in similar peril?

"Yes," says Orange Coast College marine biology professor, Dennis Kelly of Costa Mesa. Kelly has studied the bottlenose dolphins off the Orange County coastline between Bolsa Chica State Beach and San Onofre for more than 11 years, focusing primarily on the levels of the industrial chemical PCB and the pesticide DDT found in the bodies of these sea mammals.

His dissections of the blubber, muscle, liver, kidney and brain tissues of six carcasses revealed high levels of DDT that ranged from 150 to 1,992 parts per million; the average, according to dolphin experts, is 854 ppm for blubber. PCB levels ranged up to 265 ppm, well above the 105 ppm average.

Kelly, however, stands virtually alone in believing that sewage disposal and river run-off are threatening the approximately 200 dolphins in Orange County's coastal waters. Others experts see no immediate danger at all.

Kelly feels frustrated because no test has yet been discovered to directly link ocean pollution and the high levels of PCB and DDT to the dolphins' deaths. Adding to his frustration is the fact that Orange Coast College is not a major university and his findings are not being taken seriously.

Should Orange County ignore Kelly when he says "there will be a mass die off in 1995?" It becomes an even more unsettling thought when the daily newspapers report mysterious deaths of the Southern California black abalone and young seals, whose illnesses puzzle officials.

As Kelly says of the coastal bottlenose, "when they're dead, it's too late, isn't it?"

—Kris Murakami

and Banjo, however, are listed in NMFS' Marine Mammal Inventory Report as having belonged to Dinnes since 1982—Merlin since he was captured from the Gulf of Mexico. Darla has been under his care for Marineland of France since 1985.

The federal government as well as animal rights and environmental groups are very interested in Martin Dinnes. He is under federal investigation for 22 violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. NMFS is considering revoking his permits to keep or sell marine mammals—the first time the agency has considered such a move. Dinnes has requested a trial to answer to the charges against him. A hearing date has been set for sometime in June, 1991, according to Theodore Beutiler, staff attorney for the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

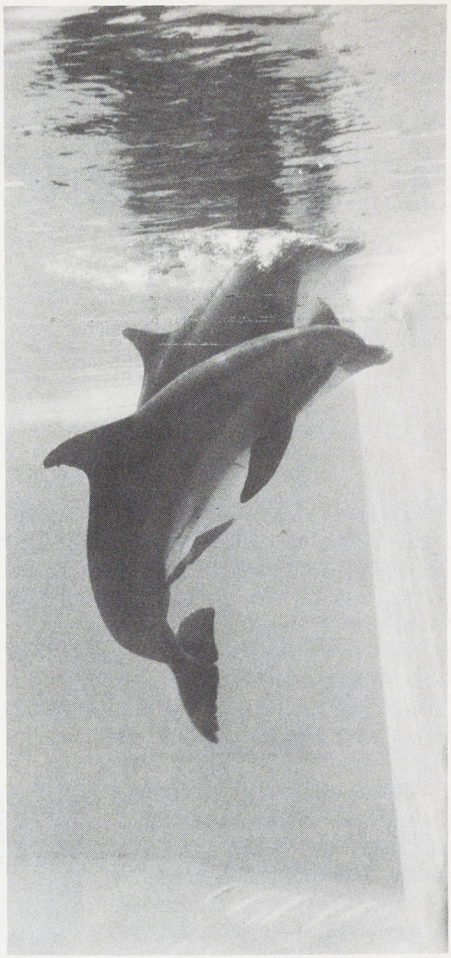
The charges against Dinnes accuse him of failing to file autopsy reports on five bottlenose dolphins that died at the Hawk's Cay facility, keeping sea lions in a facility not approved for their care, transferring sea lions to unlicensed buyers, failing to file a required report on his animals' health and killing a sea lion.

Feldman denied knowing anything of the Dinnes investigation, and said that "some things have the appearance of bad in this field which were based on good intentions." He refused to speculate on what might happen to Dinnes' standing at The Mirage if he is found guilty.

Critics, on the other hand, were very eager to comment on Martin Dinnes. Jerye Mooney views The Mirage's hiring the veterinarian as "suspicious." Although the casino has no connection to Dinnes' investigation, skeptics see the fact that the hotel would hire a man under federal investigation as a moral indictment against The Mirage.

Another recent development has critics even more concerned about The Mirage's motives. In their permit application, the hotel indicated that the dolphin facility will be free to visitors. "In order to promote visitation we will not charge admission fees.... To our knowledge, this will be the first noncommercial marine mammal facility in the United States." The hotel is now charging $3 to see the dolphins, and between 2,000 and 3,500 people visit the facility daily.

Onie said the new admission price was implemented to defray the building cost and to expand the educational programs. The facility also costs about $7,000 per day to operate. "I can guarantee that we are not making a hefty profit," she said.



Males Merlin and Banjo are kept in a separate tank, in keeping with their open ocean behavior, according to the Mirage tour guides.

According to Trimingham, no one at Sea Shepherd was surprised by the admission fee. "The Mirage obtained the dolphins under the pretense of education; it looks like they had profit in mind all along."

Lincoln O'Barry, Ric's son and vice president of the Dolphin Project, said, "A lot of what they said was to get the support of environmental groups. Now that they have the dolphins, they're going back on their word."

The dolphins' stay at The Mirage recently became even more complicated. On April 5, 1991, Duchess gave birth to a male calf; two days later, Darla gave birth to a female. Add another two to the Las Vegas five, and you have seven dolphins in the desert who are going to be submerged in more controversy than water for the rest of their lives. ▲

Editor's Note: At press time, Darla's two-week-old female calf died. Mirage spokespeople report the initial autopsy indicated a congenital cause of death. Tissue samples have been sent to biologists nationwide; results are pending.

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UP, UP FOR A DAY

Story and Photos by Heather Dinsdale



The early morning sailors ready their vessels, chart their courses and adjust their plans for the day's journey. Their crafts will be powered not by the waves of the sea, but rather by the winds in the skies. All aboard for one of California's most exciting hobbies—hot air ballooning.

Ballooning has become a popular sport among Californians eager to explore the skies. With their limited maneuverability, balloons present a greater challenge to flying enthusiasts than the more sophisticated aircraft.

On any given weekend, scores of colorful balloons can be found in the open valleys and pastures of California, from as far south as Del Mar to as far north as Monterey. The pilots prepare their balloons for competitions, for paying customers, or just for themselves, making weekly pilgrimages to their favorite launch sites as often as the weather permits.

To 22-year-old pilot Julene Stelmak, an eight-year veteran of flying, ballooning is not just a hobby—it's a way of life. Her father, Anson, is the president of the Southern California Ballooning Association (SCBA) and runs the family-owned Boondoc Balloon Team out of their home in Manhattan Beach. Her mother, Connie, is the balloon's crew chief and also drives the "chase" vehicle, the family's off-road truck, which follows the balloon. Once the balloon lands, she secures it with the crew's help, ties it down to the truck and readies it for the next flight.

On the weekends, the Stelmaks hire out one of their three balloons, taking customers on the ride of a lifetime. "We have a pretty consistent stream of customers," Julene said. "We don't have many free weekends during our busy season."

That busy season is at Christmastime, said Julene. "People are looking for unusual presents, and balloon rides are exciting gifts," she said. The Stelmaks fly out of Perris Valley, located about an hour east of Long Beach, because the wide open spaces make for easy landings.

The bright balloons dot the skies most of the year, disappearing during the summer months when Perris becomes unbearably warm. Crewmembers and passengers assist in preparing the balloon, which is hard enough work without fighting the sultry summer air. The heat drains the crewmembers' energy as they struggle to deflate the balloon. "If you don't keep your body flushed with fluids and salts to keep you hydrated, you're dead," Julene said. So during the summer, Boondoc sets sail only one or two weekends a month.

Many pilots take on paying customers because ballooning is a costly pastime and the income helps support their habit. In propane-fueled balloons, the type most commonly seen in Southern California, flights begin at $75, but vary with the services offered. Some companies offer romantic sunset flights, champagne flights, or even an elegant post-flight dinner with the pilot, which can boost the price to as high as $150.

The balloons are sturdy, durable aircraft. The wicker basket, or gondola, can last up to 10 years if maintained regularly; the balloon will last half as long. The heavy equipment, weighing up to 700 pounds, fits compactly into a large duffel bag slightly smaller than the size of the basket.

The brightly colored balloon is made of double rip-stop nylon. Contrary to popular belief, a balloon will not pop if a hole appears. The strong nylon's design prevents rips from running or growing larger, so the balloon can be repaired after the flight. Most balloons can sustain up to a 12-inch hole in the bottom part, or "below the equator," of the balloon, and up to a six-inch hole above the equator. These holes do not cause major damage, but the hot air escapes more quickly, forcing the pilot to use more propane.

The crew arrives at the launch site just as the sun rises. They unload the huge balloon into the crisp morning chill and fill it with air. The hot air explodes into the nylon, bringing the magnificent balloon to life via a blasting fan or weed gun (a hand-held instrument aimed inside the balloon) in just under 20 minutes.



The crew then loads the metallic propane tanks, the wicker of the basket creaking as they are set into place. The 30- to 40-minute propane supply, coupled with the availability of clear landing spaces, determine the length of the flight. "With balloons, you can inflate and take off from wherever you want to," Julene said. "The problem is landing."

This problem is very real for balloonists. A few years back, there were not nearly as many housing developments and pilots could land virtually anywhere there was an open space. But developers have gobbled up the land, as have farmers, and neither appreciate balloonists landing in their fields or on their crops. Cautious pilots now carry maps marked with the zones where they are restricted from landing. An entire page of the SCBA newsletter is reserved for listing prohibited zones and recent

continued on page 36



Above, the ground crew blasts hot air in preparation for the day's excursion. Top right, 20 minutes later, the bright nylon balloon lifts off.



Photos by Deborah Jackson

CONTROVERSY CLOUDS THE SOUTHWEST

L.A.'s Oldest Museum May Lose Its Place in the Sun

by Teri Lee Ray

A mid-summer sun beat powerfully down on the flat adobe walls of the Southwest Museum where a small crowd gathered around its founder, Charles Lummis. August 3, 1914 had finally arrived. Lummis breathed a sigh of relief and the group shouted triumphantly as Los Angeles' first museum opened its doors to the public.



Top of page, a rickety elevator awaits museum-goers at the end of the history-rich tunnel concealed behind these doors. No stranger to relocating, this Indian home (above) may be on the road again.

Seventy-seven years later, the Southwest Museum's doors are still open...but for how much longer? After decades of unforeseen success, an enormous collection of Southwest Indian and Spanish American artifacts fills every corner of the museum. This 48,000-square-foot building offered sufficient storage and exhibition space in 1914, but today's collection demands an area at least twice that size.

Jamming these rare artifacts together puts them at an unnecessarily high risk to damage from inevitable California earthquakes. (The 1987 Whittier Narrows Quake tossed pottery to the ground, breaking several pieces and damaging others.) Destruction from rats and mice as well as inconsistent temperatures pose

further threats. Meanwhile, valuable information is lost in the clutter, leaving staff, researchers and students empty-handed. As it is now, the exhibition cases barely accommodate five percent of the collection.

For any museum, these circumstances are less than ideal. For the internationally renowned Southwest Museum, they cripple its attempts to ensure the safety and preservation of the priceless collection and also weaken its ability to educate the public on the region's history. Is it time to close the doors and move on to something bigger—literally?

Only one of several options, relocating is viewed by the museum's Board of Trustees as the most practical choice so far. But when this idea reached the public, the Save Our Southwest (SOS) coalition raised up its voice for the second time since it formed in 1987 to protest merger talks between the Southwest Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Whereas museum officials' primary concern is saving the rare collection, SOS focuses its attention on preserving the history embodying that collection: the structure itself. For them, moving is not even an alternative.

Southwest Museum Executive Director Jerry Selmer weighs each option carefully as he sits amid the problems facing the museum, which all stem from the space limitations of the picturesque Mt. Washington site. High on a hill in the Highland Park section of Los Angeles, the museum's 13-acre parcel offers little in terms of growth possibilities. With the limited flat acreage already occupied, additional structures would be both difficult and costly to build on such hilly terrain. Just as much money would go underground in expensive substructures (necessary to support buildings on the steep slopes) as would go above the ground, Selmer said.

But the concerned citizens of SOS find expanding the present facility preferable to relocating. According to co-chairwoman Diana Barnwell, any solution that does not shift the focus from the current site would be acceptable to SOS.

As an umbrella organization, SOS voices a concern that can be heard throughout the community. The coalition consists of about 25 groups, including the Los Angeles Unified School District, and has gained the support of Councilman Richard Alatorre.

Standing firmly against a move, the group anxiously awaits sketches from architect Sydney Biskett, who is designing possible additions on the Mt. Washington location.

Even if expansion proves feasible, the question of access remains unanswered. With the hill weathering away, the steep and winding road leading to the museum will soon require expensive repair—something the museum parking lot already demands. Right now the lot accommodates 100 cars, but the need is for three to four times that number.

Expansion plans do not take into account the state of the nearly eight-decade-old building, which requires at least $2 to 4 million in repairs before any new construction even begins. The main water system, which recently burst, is overtaken by rust and on the verge of again falling apart. One of the library walls has a two-story crack from the outside facade all the way in as a result of the foundation settling on the slight slant of the hill.

Another solution offered is to move some of the collection off-site where it might be either displayed or stored. SOS supports this idea, again as long as the museum's main interests stay with the current site. According to Barnwell, satellite locations should merely serve in a junior position to the Mt. Washington spot.

Steps to move fragile pottery are already underway. But according to Selmer, locking up parts of the collection in a storage facility does not really do anyone any good. Though it protects valuable pottery from poor museum conditions, researchers and students still can't get to it. For that reason it is neither a viable long-term nor short-term solution.



The museum Charles F. Lummis built in 1914 houses a collection of Southwest Indian artifacts second in size and importance only to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

Selmer's personal concern is for the museum to live up to its legal responsibility of educating the public. "The question is, does this facility lend itself to really accomplishing that purpose?" he asked. The museum now offers workshops, performances, lectures, seminars, festivals, films, guided tours and its regular exhibitions to some 25,000 to 30,000 students in organized tours annually. However, requests for substantially more student visits have been turned down for lack of space.

What museum officials seek is enough land for adequate parking and a building twice the size of the present one. They also want visibility, preferably from a freeway. The current location, although in an attractive area, is buried in a residential neighborhood, and according to Selmer, even many local residents do not know it exists.

With a desire to carry the Southwest Museum into the 21st century, the Board of Trustees is putting its greatest energy into relocation possibilities, even though no final decision has been reached. "I think a lot of people find that idea [relocation] appealing because we know of the long list of inadequacies at this facility," Selmer said.

"A lot of people," maybe, but definitely not Diana Barnwell and SOS supporters. They don't believe the reasons given warrant a move. And they argue that relocating abandons an historic location dating back to 1897 when founder Charles Fletcher Lummis first publicized his dream for

a museum celebrating the Southwest.

It all began in the late 1800s when Lummis hiked from Ohio to California, sending letters of his adventures to the Los Angeles *Times* for publication in a weekly column. The column earned him a lofty reputation among Angelenos. On his many journeys, he collected valuable American Indian and Mexican artifacts and developed a passion for the Southwest that he wished to share.

Following the large migration to the West Coast in the early 1900s, L.A. gained a learned and literate population not satisfied with merely being the commercial rival of San Francisco. As in any pioneering community, L.A. citizens felt a need to exhibit their own cultural accomplishments, showing that, in a sense, they had "arrived." Lummis was just the man to lead the way, a challenge he faced head on.

for what he felt was "the most magnificent location in the United States for a public museum."

Looking at the problems facing the museum today, this could be considered Lummis' single greatest mistake. Though most of his intensions were altruistic, his determination may have had a hidden selfish motive. El Alisal, the home he personally built for his family that now serves as headquarters to the Historical Society of Southern California, rests at the base of Mt. Washington and has an unobstructed view of the museum.

In the early blueprint stages of construction, supervisor Lummis was struck with temporary blindness that was to last 15 months of the 20-month project. Rather than hinder construction, this merely slowed it down. A stubborn man by all biographical accounts, Lummis let nothing hold him back from this, his grandest dream.

A stubborn man by all biographical accounts, Lummis let nothing hold him back from this, his grandest dream.

After his work at the *Times*, Lummis became editor of *Land of Sunshine* magazine (later *Out West* magazine), which he used as a powerful tool to put his museum vision into action. Through this publication he founded the Southwest Society of the Archaeological Institute of America in 1903, drawing support and membership from his readers. The main objective of the Southwest Society was to form a museum "which would maintain scientific standards as strict and as high as are anywhere held in the world's chief centers of culture."

Lummis was primarily concerned about the location. He wanted it "set on a hill where it should be seen and known by all..., and where dust of traffic and commerce could never smother it."

Mt. Washington was just such a spot and Lummis pursued it with religious conviction. He went door to door, enlisting the help of his young son and daughter (both under 10 years), seeking contributions of money, time, or simply support for his museum. So intent was he on Mt. Washington, that he refused four separate sites offered, completely gratis, by millionaire Henry Huntington. Had Huntington's offer been accepted, some authorities believe the Southwest Museum today might embrace the Huntington Library and Art Gallery. Instead, Lummis paid $50,000 First elevations already approved, he repeatedly traced the plans with his fingertips until he gained a feel for them. Then, in rough pencil sketches, he crudely indicated positions of doors, windows, wall cases and the stairwell of the Caracol Tower—the museum's most distinguishing feature.

As Southwest Museum scholar Donavan Clark has chronicled, "The name Lummis has gone unchallenged as the single most important figure in the founding of the Southwest Museum." But Lummis' dream may never have been realized without the contributions of numerous wealthy benefactors. And even without Lummis, the museum would have eventually come into existence, just not with such force, popularity and prominence.

In fact, one of the museum's most valuable collections came from Lummis—acquired over 25 years of personal exploration and study. He claimed to be an archaeologist (having participated in many digs with famed archaeologist Adolf F. Bandelier), a photographer (having documented the reclusive Penitente Indian rituals), a librarian (having run the Los Angeles Public Library for six years), a poet (having published *The Birch Bark Poems* while at Harvard), an editor (having worked on the L.A. *Times* and *Land of Sunshine/Out West*), an ethnographer (having recorded folklores and songs of ancient Indian tribes), an architect (having designed the Southwest Museum virtually by himself) and an explorer (having walked solo across America)—all the while building up his fantastic collection.

On his 51st birthday, Lummis donated all of his anthropological and historical artifacts to the museum. Its first director, Hector Alliot, described the collection as "the most important donation ever made to a Western museum." Before he died, Lummis also donated El Alisal and his valuable historical library to the museum. Today, the library houses over 125,000 items, plus thousands of photographic negatives and prints, as well as record collections of Indian and Spanish American music.

Preserving this rich history is the driving force behind SOS. To the coalition, the building itself represents everything the Southwest Museum stands for.

But not to Selmer. "This is an attractive facility. I would say that almost everyone associated with this place has an emotional tie they don't want to give up, if they can avoid it. But when you're looking at a question of survival, you have to get past the emotionalism."

Although SOS's efforts may be sincere, Selmer has his own views about the group's interest with the Southwest Museum. "I think their concerns are motivated to some extent by feeling that their property values might suffer once the facility moved out. I have to think that's the reason, because they're certainly not [financial] supporters of the museum."

Mt. Washington and Highland Park are home to about 40,000 residents. According to Selmer, only 128 of the museum's 4,500 to 5,000 members come from the local community, and their donations to the museum last year amounted to $730.

Still, the voice of SOS can be heard above the drone of cars on the freeway—and the museum board is listening. For SOS, the building's historical importance is hard to overlook and they will not be silent if it is. "I don't expect to make everyone happy," said Selmer, who feels he has responsibilities of his own. "The museum is not this building, it's what's in this building."

SOS adamantly disagrees. But one thing all sides will admit is that *something* must be done about the museum's many problems—and soon. If not, the heavy wooden doors that so joyously opened 77 years ago will slam to a close and, as Selmer said, "...that will mean the death of this museum." ▲



sex, lies & power tools

by Barbara A. Barclay

Hunkered down among the sweater racks at Nordstrom, skulking behind angoras and wool, I found myself eavesdropping on a classic conversation between a couple in their late 20s.

He, obviously dismayed at being left standing solo in the womyn's clothing section, was trying to become one with the dress racks.

She cautiously emerged from the dressing room. "So...," she said demurely, cocking her head to one side like a Barbie doll with a broken neck, "how do I look?"

Through a blur of red cardigans, I could see beads of perspiration glistening on his brow as his trembling lips attempted to form words.

Though probably brilliant in the boardroom, he now began to question his masculinity. She had asked him those four terrifying words: "how do I look?"

Most men realize the omnipotence of those four words. It's just too close to impotence for comfort. Even recent graduates of the Rush Limbaugh School of Sensitivity Training know that "how do I look?" is a castration about to happen.

He charges ahead, knowing full well that nothing he can say will be what she wants to hear. Even the time he thought he'd outsmart her and tell her she looked great, she accused him of not being serious. She's hypersensitive, he concludes, heading full speed into the abyss.

Too late.

"Well say something!" she insists. Uh-oh, he thinks. It's critical now. He's screwed and he knows it. He always plans to be ready for "how do I look?" but somehow, he never is. Say *something*, he tells himself. Say *anything*. No. Not *anything*. That's the kiss of death. Be diplomatic....

"OK," he mutters, amazed at his powerful negotiating skills. What can she possibly find wrong with OK?

"OK? Just OK?!" she shrieks. As her Bette Davis eyes shoot Patriot missiles toward him, he remembers his power tools at home and wishes he were sitting on the floor of his garage surrounded by lathes, conduit benders and chainsaws. He wishes he were at Sears, too. Sears sells Power Tools. Sears sells Black and Decker Power Tools.

Defiantly, he looks her square in the eyes. "No. It's OK. Really."

"Really-really OK," she purrs, "or just OK?" She is unrelenting.

"Awwwgawd...," he blurts out, knowing she'll hear him and figure he's had enough of this BS and maybe then she'll knock it off and they can go home and eat a great dinner and maybe watch a little TV, and...who knows what? If she'd just ease up a little and stop overanalyzing everything he said like she was a high-ranking Gestapo in Freud's Secret Army!

"OK. If you don't like it, I just won't get it," she says in defeat. He's so insensitive! she thinks to herself.

He knows tonight is definitely not The Night. And he thinks to himself that he might as well have joined the priesthood for all the sex he gets anymore.

Again, she emerges from the dressing room; Barbie's head now bowed in sorrow and grief.

A challenge, he decides. Maybe I can save tonight! "Are you OK?" he asks.

Then she hits him with all her heavy artillery. "Well, if you don't know, I'm not going to tell you," she snaps through her tears.

He erupts, conceding any hope of saving tonight, or tomorrow night, or the next....

They leave the store together, but incommunicado. Alone.

I emerge from the sweater racks, angora stuck to my nose. Proud of my eavesdropping skills, I reward myself with the angora sweater I'd been having a relationship with and walk boldly out of the store.

The couple's conversation was an all-too-common one. Who hasn't encountered couples of all ages trying to communicate in public but failing miserably. It's an uncomfortable situation—a little like climbing into bed with a cactus.

And you're embarrassed. For yourself, of course, but mostly, you're embarrassed for them. Your civilized-Amy-Vanderbilt side says, "Walk away, give them their privacy," while your national-tabloid-journalist side says, "Get in closer; pretend you're not paying attention."

You hear the call and respond to the tabloid journalist deep within you. You eavesdrop.

I easily rationalize this by saying that when I listen, I learn about human behavior. To those of you who are interested in such things, sit down, lock the door, turn on the answering machine. This is just between us.

There are basically two reasons why we (womyn) and you (men) are not communicating:

Reason No. 1: We (womyn) are not saying what we mean.

Reason No. 2: You (men) are not listening to us anyway.

Which leads to the irrefutable conclusion that we (womyn and men) are not communicating!

Case in point. The conversation earlier at Nordstrom. When she asked "how do I look?" did she really want to know? And if so, was she willing to accept his opinion—even if it were negative?

By asking her significant other, she was letting him know that his opinion mattered to her. Or did it?

He—who had learned from experience that there was no right answer to the question—felt himself caught in a Catch-22. Damned if he did; damned if he didn't.

Which makes us wonder why she bothered to ask his opinion anyway, if she really didn't

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Art by Tejpal S. Batra

A '90s Guide To Health Store Highs

by Veronica Woolston

Southern California has always been a hotbed for health nuts and fitness freaks. If we're not working out at the gym, we're stuffing ourselves with veggies and tofu burgers. But no matter how much we work out, eat right and just plain *take care* of ourselves, there are times when willpower alone can't save us from the temptation of an artificial high.

C'mon! Getting high on life just isn't enough for many of us. There are times when we just need that extra jolt of caffeine to get going in the morning. And who can honestly admit they haven't gone through a weekend without a fix of alcohol, nicotine or even (GASP!) drugs to get kicking into the nightlife?

While in past years cocaine has been the elite energy upper of choice, and Ecstasy has held an allure for aficionados of psychedelia, today more and more people are turning to healthy and legal substances to stimulate the mind without taking a toll on the body or the nerves.

Take, for instance, amino acids. If you recall from high school health class, those are the 22 building blocks of protein—the same building blocks for an incredible pick-me-up. These all-natural protein poppers are extracted from such foods as vegetables and meat, then concentrated in capsules and tablets which can be found at any local health food store. While L-Lysine aids in the energy production process, there are other supplements that provide, well, much more than you can imagine.

For ambitious scholars, L-Glutamine is a definite necessity for late-night study sessions. Pop a pill of "G" and it's said you will become more intelligent and less fatigued and you'll have extra brain fuel to keep reading Sigmund Freud into the wee hours of the morning.

Are you an avid aeroboholic? L-Arginine is known to metabolize body fat. Men will be pleased to find that it also increases sperm count.

L-Phenylalanine is hailed as another wonder picker-upper. Its positive perks include reducing hunger, increasing sexual desire, heightening alertness and alleviating depression. With so much wrapped into one little pill, who needs Dexatrim, Spanish Fly, Vivarin or Valium?

And then there are vitamins. While their popularity changes more often than the "in" gyms of Los Angeles, the fact remains that when you're living a fast-paced lifestyle with limited sleep, vitamins can be excellent energy boosters. For those poor souls faced with insurmountable stress, vitamins B and C are recommended.

Vitamin E is the athlete's answer to the late-night-out-get-up-early blues. Known as the vitality vitamin, E protects body tissue, prevents wear and tear on skin and muscles, and enhances the muscles' ability to oxidize.

Of course, vitamins and amino acids aren't the only means of attaining a natural high. While some college students are still stuck on picking magic mushrooms and growing the ever-popular pleasure plant on their kitchen windowsills, others are turning to more exotic herbal highs as guarana, muira puama, kava kava and ginseng.

"Basically herbs are, as the Taoists called them, the forgotten foods," said Melinda Anderson, an acupressurist at Shiatsu in Newport Beach. "We have a society that goes on caffeine and sugar for an instant buzz—the fast way. Herbs strengthen the body by giving it fertilizer and creating a foundation. Herbs are to strengthen the body so the body can balance itself."

According to Dr. Michael Treanor, of Sierra Chiropractic in Santa Ana, the best way to attain an herbal high is to first address the liver chemistry. The liver is responsible for storing fat-soluble toxins and filtering them from the blood. The more toxins stored in the liver, the less energy you will be able to produce. So by cleaning the liver filtration system, you can attain your body's highest level of energy capability.

"If you attempt any other fancy maneuvers with nutrition without improving liver metabolism, it won't fly because the liver is the hub," Treanor said. "In the process of cleaning the liver, bayberry and dandelion root are excellent. After that, the herbs would be patient-specific."

Brazil's Amazon basin is home to some of the most exotic herbal uppers, like guarana, muira puama and kava kava. Dubbed one of the classic natural uppers, guarana are hard, small seeds first experimented with by the Amazon natives. According to those who indulge, their effects fall between those of a caffeine and cocaine high, but without the downer. In Brazil, guarana is often liquidized into soda-pop, but here in California it can be bought in its original form or in capsules. Some doctors warn that too much guarana can make you edgy. "Guarana is not an herb to be used for extended periods of time," Treanor said.

Of course, with Brazil's reputation as "land of the booty," it's no wonder that one of its most popular natural uppers is an herbal sex stimulant. The muira puama plant is used by natives to increase libido and stimulate the central nervous system. In the Amazon, the natives either chew the bark or boil the roots, creating an ethereal high. Here in California, muira puama may be taken in the extract form and is available at most health food stores.

Business has been booming, especially with the college-aged club crowd. With Ecstasy losing popularity because of damaging long-term side effects, guarana is replacing it as a safe alternative and comparable high.

"What most people don't realize is that we young people are taking

care of ourselves now, unlike generations from the '60s and '70s," said Michele Benton, an 18-year-old biochemistry student. "The earlier decades did a lot of acid, while in the '80s coke and X [Ecstasy] were really big. I think the '90s is the decade of herbal highs."

Kava kava, a powder extracted from the root of the pepper plant, has long been used for both euphoric and narcotic purposes. Ancient Polynesian chiefs had special "kava chewers" who chewed the roots into a ball, then soaked it in a large bowl to drink. The liquid was also used in special ceremonies when noblemen poured it on the ground to honor the gods. Herbologists compare the effects of kava kava to that of a mild alcohol or marijuana high.

"Kava kava doesn't impair mental alertness and there is no hangover the next morning," said pharmacy student Tanya Murray. "It's just like smoking weed, but it's legal!"

Legal highs are definitely on the upswing, and with natural uppers becoming more popular, so are some ancient Chinese secrets.

Calamus, known as Sweet Flag in the United States, has been used in China for over 2,000 years to combat fatigue while increasing stamina. Two inches of the dried root is the recommended dosage, so if you dare take more than ten inches of the stuff—watch out! Calamus in large doses can be as hallucinogenic as LSD.

Fo-Ti, known in China as Ho shou wu, is a rejuvenating tonic that restores energy, increases fertility and maintains strength and vigor. The Chinese also claim it prevents premature aging, strengthens muscles and bones, and keeps hair shiny. An alcoholic preparation or "tincture" of the herb is sold in Chinese markets.

Many herbs like Ho shou wu are mixed with alcohol to extract active ingredients that are not water-soluble. The liquor also doubles as a preservative, and helps mask the not-so-pleasant flavor of some herbs.

The most popular ancient Chinese upper is ginseng. Although almost always associated as an aphrodisiac, ginseng is also an effective stimulant.

"Ginseng is very good, but it's not for everybody," said Dr. Marjorie Moore, an M.D. in Oriental medicine. "Ginseng is more complex than it seems."

Used for centuries in China to increase longevity, improve memory and overcome stress and fatigue, the ginseng root comes in a variety of forms, including chewing gum. (Try offering a stick to your lover on a future date.)

"Recently I've been buying a lot of ginseng cola at Trader Joe's," said Omar Granda, a 21-year-old lab technician. "It's definitely improved my sex life. There's nothing like a can of cold ginseng before an hour of hot sex!"

Speaking of sex, aphrodisiacs like ginseng are natural substances that enhance sexual desire or pleasure. They've been experimented with for over 2,000 years by ancient herbalists, and among the most famed herbs of love are acacia buds, aloe, balm of Gilead, cyclamen, elecampane, lavender, meadowweet, mistletoe, myrtle and rose.

Honeysuckle is known to induce erotic and prophetic dreams, while basil is Haiti's plant of the voodoo nymphomaniac sex goddess Erzuile. The Chinese gather herbs and roots like myrrh, jasmine and ginseng.

The Damiana leaf has been used for centuries by Central American women who mix the leaves with vodka as a pre-coital cocktail. (One pint of vodka to one ounce of Damiana, steeped for five days.)

Of course, not all natural uppers are safe or legal—something to be considered when experimenting with herbal stimulants. Nutmeg produces a hallucinogenic high, yet can cause brain damage and even death when taken in large and continuing doses.

"We got a natural high by taking 10 to 15 ounces of ground nutmeg," said Ryan Reedy, a 24-year-old biology student. "After about four hours, we felt really stoned and dehydrated for about 25 to 30 hours. It's pretty harsh!"

In moderation, however, nutmeg is safe. According to Dr. Michael Tierra, author of *The Way of Herbs*, a small amount of nutmeg, about the size of a pea, can be taken once daily over a long period to relieve chronic nervous disorders.

Marigold tea, known as hell's bells by natural high enthusiasts, is also discouraged. "A friend of my ex-roommate drank three glasses of it and ended up in the hospital with a straight jacket," Tanya Murray added.

According to a recent study of herbology by Varro E. Tyler, Ph.D. at Purdue University, "Science is getting a better handle on which herbs work and which are harmful. So the opportunity for safe, sane and effective use of herbal remedies has increased."

Apparently so. Clinical establishments specializing in herbology have been springing up throughout the Southland. "More and more people are coming in for treatment now," Dr. Treanor said. "They're not sick—just interested in maximizing their health."

It certainly looks like herbal highs are the way to fly in the '90s. With continuing emphasis on fitness and nutrition, it's no wonder many Southern Californians are turning to natural uppers to face the downers life sometimes brings. ▲

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U VIEW

CWED

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be able to access a job due to cultural or language barriers. So women look to themselves to generate more income, whether it be the primary income or a supplement to it."

Participants in CWED workshops vary in age and ethnic background, but they share the need for increased incomes and the benefits that are a part of self-employment, such as an established credit history and self-sufficiency. Currently concentrating its workshops in South Central and Central Los Angeles, CWED has experienced a significant increase in Latino, African American and immigrant women. Because proprietorship exists in countries outside the United States, many immigrants already have self-employment experience and look to that option first.

Through CWED's workshops, women learn to increase their self-esteem and self-recognition, essential components needed to keep a business alive and thriving. The key elements taught in the workshops are leadership skills, decision-making and personal management.

"CWED teaches us how to deal with unpleasant business situations," said alumna Roxie Wilson. "We learn how to work well with other people and deal with various types of business situations on a daily basis."

Wilson, owner of Expressions Gift Gallery in Los Angeles, was able to start her company because of the Solidarity Circle Loan Program. This program and the Micro-Business Workshop are two ground-breaking programs which give women the skills for success.

The Solidarity Program, available to women who already have a business, offers peer support and financial assistance. A group of five women, who choose the members in their own circle, access loans of up to $5,000. Not only do they improve their business, the women establish desperately needed credit.

As a result of being in the circle, these women form a financial bond and a strong support network, because trust is the only collateral needed.

"It is an accomplishment in itself that my group members believe in each other enough to come back to each meeting and fulfill their financial obligation," Wilson said.

This idea, new to the United States, has been practiced overseas for years. According to Riddle, it has operated

successfully in Bangladesh and Latin America for over 20 years.

The Micro-Business Workshop, a 12-week crash course, offers women valuable hands-on experience. Women work in the community getting to know their market and learning what demand exists for their business. A loan is also available through the Micro-Business Workshop, but is optional.

Once the women graduate from the programs they become CWED Network Association members. This allows them to continue receiving support. As members, the women participate with a larger business for a six-month period, enabling them to further learn the tricks of the trade before launching their own business.

In June 1991, CWED plans to expand its programs to the Long Beach area. According to Riddle, the calls for a Long Beach-based program constantly pour in. "We need mentors in various business fields, especially out of the Long Beach area." She also believes that many local graduates need CWED assistance. ▲

Legal Advice Without the Price

by Debbie Prince

Students with questions about the law no longer have expensive lawyer fees standing in their way. They can have their legal questions answered by the campus-based Associated Students Legal Aid Center, which provides free advice from attorneys who volunteer their time.

Troy Goldstein, a pre-law student at California State University, Long Beach, runs the center, located on the second floor of the Student Union. Goldstein, legal aid commissioner of the A.S. Student Senate, is not a lawyer and cannot give legal advice, but he can direct you to informative pamphlets on such topics as tenant rights or divorce. The center also has a mini library of law books. If students cannot find answers in the available literature, they can sign up for an appointment with an attorney.



Attorneys are available two evenings a week. As a result of the heavy student demand and the limited supply of lawyers, students are strictly limited to 15-minute appointments. It is best to get to the center the Monday before you want to see an attorney, when Goldstein first posts the sign-up sheet outside the door. Spaces are usually filled by the end of the day.

In emergency situations, Goldstein can call Angelo Piersanti, an attorney who gives advice over the phone.

Goldstein volunteers 20 hours a week to the center, lining up attorneys for appointments, getting book donations from law schools and attorneys, and keeping the pamphlets updated. The center operates on a semester budget of about $1,950. The money pays for phone bills, pamphlets and new law books.

"I do it for the experience and the thrill of helping people," Goldstein said. He added that he loves everything about his job—right down to the paperwork.

Eight other pre-law students also volunteer their time, working around their class schedules. Dean Silliman, an economics major in the honors program and a pre-law student, works about 20 hours a week at the clinic. He was one of seven judges on the A.S. Judiciary Committee. Since the Committee sits dormant most of the year, Silliman often visited the law clinic. Seeing they needed help, he pitched in. The job rewards him with the positive impact his help has on students.

"They come here with this really frantic look on their face," he said. "When you tell them you're going to call an attorney, they get this really relieved look on their face. That's gratifying."

In addition to calming frantic students, Silliman coaches candidates through the complicated law school application process which can take up to a year of preparation. The process involves taking the Law School Aptitude Test, sending in recommendations, and filling out piles of paperwork, under crucial deadlines. "I've done it for 11 different law schools so I feel pretty good about walking a student through. I can tell them the rules and even offer personal advice from my own experience."

Even with its nine dedicated volunteers, the clinic could use more help. The duties include running the office, stocking information racks and posting sign-up sheets. "There are no set hours or requirements and we will train you," Silliman said.



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U VIEW

As for the attorneys, their time is also donated. The Poverty Law Center of Orange County and the Long Beach Barristers Association ask their members to participate.

Attorney Don McDonald works with Goldstein to provide lawyers for the Thursday night sessions. A CSULB graduate, McDonald got involved with the program in 1987. "I feel that as an attorney you owe it to society to help people. It's nice to give something back to the community," he said.

Attorney Josef M. Rodarti agrees that this pro bono work is a good way to give something back to the community, as well as a way to break society's negative feelings toward attorneys. And Rodarti makes a point of not soliciting business from students.

The volunteer work can be risky. Attorneys weigh each word under the ever-present cloud of a malpractice suit. Because law is so complicated, many lawyers tend to specialize. If a client comes to a law firm with a problem outside the firm's specialty, they will refer that client to a more appropriate attorney, but only from a carefully researched list of referrals; if the client sues an attorney, the referring attorney can also be involved.

McDonald agrees attorneys must use caution when giving advice. His biggest problem is telling those who storm into his office demanding justice that they might be wrong. Some clients think if the attorney is good enough, they can win a lot of money.

"They don't consider the fact that they could be wrong," McDonald said. "The best type of settlement is compromise." He recalled the story of a CSULB student who took her truck in for reupholstering. She picked it up a week later and found the truck had accumulated an extra 3,000 miles. Enraged, she phoned McDonald's office. His one phone call to the shop settled the matter out of court.

Attorney Richard A. Harting said the biggest challenge is solving problems in 15 minutes. "You learn to cut to the heart of the problem. Students want to tell you everything, but you've got a line outside the door and they're all looking at their watches."

The A.S. Legal Aid Center is located in Room 201C on the second floor of the Student Union, south of the Scoreboard Cafe. Because it is run informally, there are no set hours, but it's roughly 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lawyers are available Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. ▲

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sex, lies &...

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want to know that she looked like a pear in ruffles.

Which, in turn, also makes us wonder why he bothered to go clothes shopping with her in the first place when he'd rather be doing something else. Did he hear her say they were going to Sears?

We were raised in different cultures, womyn and men. Little girls cluster in groups, telling secrets and studying each other's faces. These same little girls grow into womyn who define friends as "those you confide in" and who determine trustworthiness through facial expressions.

Little boys cluster in groups, doing things together (sporting events, working, hanging out) and never looking at one another for fear of vulnerability. These same little boys grow into men who define friends as "those you do things with" and who judge trustworthiness through team spirit.

These diverse attitudes alienate womyn and men. So womyn spend mass quantities of time with other womyn clustered in groups talking about men's evasiveness and insensitivity. And men spend mass quantities of time with other men clustered in groups that don't include womyn and their interrogating voices.

What's wrong with this picture, you ask? Isn't that the way it's always been?

It's obvious to me that if the only two genders on this big, blue marble are not communicating, they can't be expected to get along in the boardroom or the bedroom.

You (men) might hold up half the sky, but we (womyn) are holding up the other half. If we're not even communicating, we could be in danger of realizing the prophecy of Chicken Little. Forget crime, forget drugs, forget nuclear annihilation. If we don't start communicating soon, we'll bring it all down on top of ourselves.

On the other hand, picture this: a synergy between the sexes. A world of communication between womyn and men. Womyn going around saying what they really mean. Men tuning them back in. Communication. What a concept.... ▲

Port Disney

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Long Beach has another reason to look closely at Anaheim—the two cities are competing for the company's attention. In what Disney's Chief Executive Officer Michael Eisner calls the "Disney Decade," the corporation plans on significantly expanding its theme parks through various projects, including the construction of a second Southland-based theme park. This development will be either Port Disney or an Epcot-style addition to Disneyland. The company plans on unveiling an Anaheim project proposal in upcoming weeks. Meanwhile, Disney has purchased 23 acres of land on West Katella Boulevard across the street from Disneyland. The corporation has reportedly been trying to secure a 99-year lease on an adjacent 58 acres.

Despite these recent land dealings, the location of the new project is still undetermined. Ongoing negotiations with Long Beach are expected to continue, and a public draft of the environmental impact study will not be available until this November. Disney hopes to finalize its plans within a year.

If Long Beach does give Disney the go-ahead, Mickey and Minnie will be laying out their welcome mat in the year 2010. But for the residents of Long Beach, will this be truly the happiest place on earth? ▲

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Ballooning

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citations issued for trespassing.

Hot air balloonists are not out looking for trouble, but for calm air and smooth sailing. It is a sport where being an early bird is a must. Because the pilots have limited control, they fly early in the morning when there are no winds.

Flights are usually conducted at sunrise when the air is most stable. Some also take off at dusk, but seldom afterward, because the darkness hinders visibility except to those select few with expensive lights and sighting equipment.

The balloons fly at varying heights, often one most comfortable to the passengers. "Usually we fly at about 500 to 1,000 feet, but sometimes, if we get some fun people, we'll take them up to 5,000 feet," said Julene.

One way pilots have fun and take care of their balloons at the same time is by "waterskiing." Because the gondola becomes banged up, either by rough landings or people leaning against the sides, the pilot must submerge it in water to reshape it.

Flying over a lake or river is perfect for this. The pilot warns the passengers and, as they quickly scramble to the sides of the basket, he turns down the flame and lets the balloon descend gently until it skims the water. He glances at the passengers to make sure they have secured themselves, then dips the basket below the surface and "waterskiis."

Safety plays a major role in hot air ballooning. Julene believes the difference between hot air ballooning in the United States versus other countries such as France or Switzerland is that Americans focus more on safety than competition. "We are more safety oriented and a little more cautious," she said. All pilots are licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration and must adhere to strict guidelines, including a yearly equipment review by an FAA-approved inspector.

Pilots are also required to carry helmets as part of their equipment, though there are no rules dictating they must be worn. "They just have to be part of your equipment," Anson said, "but that means it can be part of your equipment in your car."

Safety procedures may vary from country to country, but one thing does not—the balloonists' common love of flying. Whether in the dry region of Perris Valley or over the seashores of Del Mar, it seems there is no other place balloonists would rather have their heads than in the clouds. ▲

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